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"You Hate Him ... But I Love Him"
1999 MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

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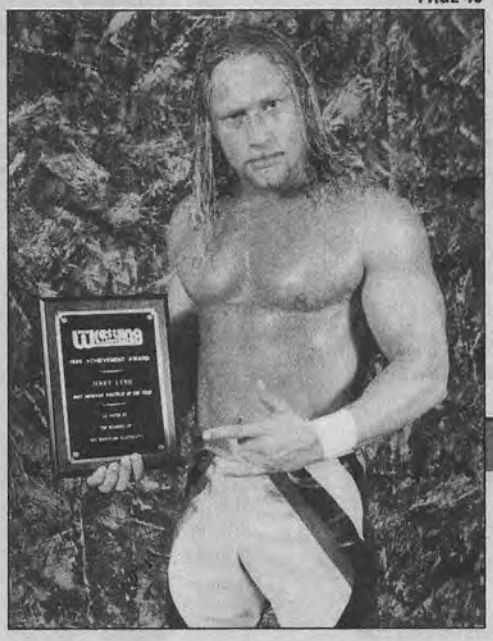
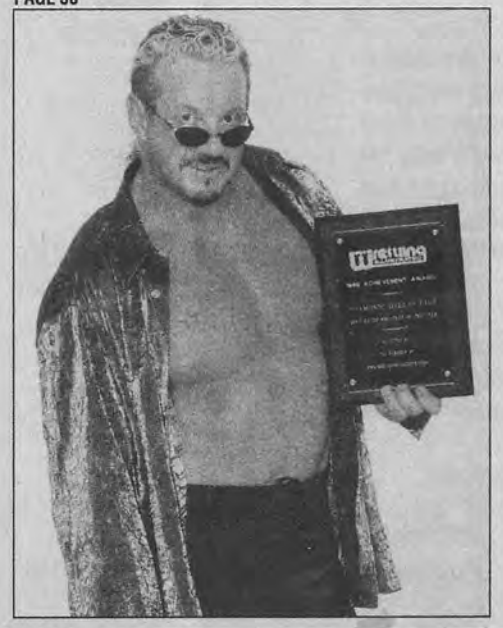


PAGE 50



NEXT ISSUE ON SALE JANUARY 25, 2000

FEATURES

23 1999: THE YEAR IN REVIEW
We look back at the big stories of the past year, the most outrageous quotes, notable numbers, significant injuries, and much more

35 THE *PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED* ACHIEVEMENT '99 AWARDS
Here's who the real experts, you, thought was the year's best wrestler ... the best rookie ... the best manager ... the most popular (and hated) wrestler ... and much more. Plus our Editors' Award

59 YOUR UNOFFICIAL OFFICIAL AWARDS FOR 1999
This is the section that *you* write. You came up with your own offbeat awards in another wild and wacky year. And once again, you did a great job

64 PREDICTIONS: 2000
You get to tell us what you think will happen in wrestling during the next 12 months. Check this section this time next year and see if you were right

86 *PWI* SUPERSTATS
A handy reference for every wrestling fan. We list all past *PWI* award winners and runners-up, as well as all the title changes in the major federations

96 STEVE ANDERSON'S VIEW
The year's best work from a talented cartoonist. You're sure to get some good laughs

98 MEMORIES OF '99: EDITORS' PICKS
What do you remember most about the last year in wrestling? Members of our staff offer their selections

DEPARTMENTS

4 FROM THE DESK OF ... Stuart M. Saks
The newspapers know where the money is

6 BETWEEN FALLS
Big surprise—we received a ton of feedback on the *"PWI* 500"

8 RINGSIDE with Will Welsh
All the hottest wrestling news can be found here

10 IN FOCUS by Dave Lenker
The best of *your* outrageous top 10 lists!

14 OFF THE TOP ROPE with Brandi Mankiewicz
Mail call for the "Queen" of wrestling

16 KREW-CUTS by Frank Krewda
Nicknames tell you a lot about wrestlers (sometimes)

18 THE JAPAN REPORT by Mike Spillane
What's new in the Land of the Rising Sun

19 THE MEXICO REPORT by John Molinaro
What's going on south of the border

20 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
The mat sport's most respected rankings

22 RATINGS ANALYSIS
Our ratings can be difficult to analyze

68 THE STEEL CAGE by Dave Rosenbaum
Dave takes a hardline view on Hogan and Van Dam

70 WIN, LOSE, OR DRAW by Harry Burkett
Has wrestling journalism changed for the better?

74 WWF vs. WCW by Jason Kirell
Could WCW's new powers-that-be provide a spark?

78 ARENA REPORTS
A collection of key match results, plus 1999's pay-per-view results

FROM THE DESK OF...

MY YOUTH WAS misspent. Nothing illegal, mind you. No gang wars, drugs, or muggings. I just spent too much time doing things that, looking back today, seem just plain stupid. I don't have enough space to list them all, but try this one: I spent the better part of an entire summer vacation inside the public library, going through reel after reel of *New York Times* microfilm, just to make printouts of six-inch articles containing the results of Madison Square Garden wrestling cards. Now, I had no idea what days these cards were held, so I spun and spun and spun until I found them.

Was it a complete waste of time? At the time, my mother told me (loudly!) that it was. Too bad I didn't have the foresight to tell her that I was gathering information that would eventually be used for the "This Month In History" portion of "Arena Reports" in PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, of which I would one day be publisher. Finding a Garden wrestling result from 1958 for me was like finding gold. When I told that to my mother, she said, "Here, take this pan and go out to a stream and find some gold."

I think she thought I was wasting my time. Silly her.

* * *

Times have changed. Wrestling information is so readily available today that there are wrestling Web sites about wrestling Web sites. And the coverage in the newspapers is prolific to the point of absurdity.

On November 2, the cover of the *Philadelphia Daily News* featured a picture of Darren Drosdov in the ring at Long Island's Nassau Coliseum almost a full month after he was tragically paralyzed. The story, which ran a page-and-a-half, including sidebar, came to the shocking conclusion that professional wrestling is dangerous. (I understand there was a suicide watch out for Woodward and Bernstein after they found out they were scooped on that story!)

The idea of having a story with such an obvious premise on the cover of a top metropolitan newspaper a month removed from the event seemed ridiculous enough, until Associate Editor Frank Krewda reminded me that it was Election Day, and there just happened to be a hotly contested Philadelphia mayoral race that might be a tad more deserving of front page coverage.

What could the editors have been thinking?

One thing and one thing only: Responsibility to journalistic discernment be damned ... Wrestling sells better than politics.

* * *

Wrestling should receive coverage in the newspapers—because it's news. But that's not the reason it's there. Wrestling is covered in newspapers because wrestling sells newspapers. Twenty-thousand people, the same amount who attended Knicks or Rangers games, packed the Garden all those years ago for wrestling, yet all it received were those six inches. And that was done to appease those people who tied up the *Times'* phone lines demanding the results. Fact is, any event that could draw that type of crowd deserves coverage, whether the sports editor likes wrestling or not.

Most sports editors do not like it, so it's lucky for them today's wrestling news has nothing whatsoever to do with actual wrestling. It's about Nielsen ratings and TV writers and the stock market and bodily risks and lawsuits. Some of it is legitimate news. Much of it is newspapers taking the opportunity to print sexy photos of Sable or Droz lying paralyzed in a ring.

I'm glad I'm not 15 anymore. I wouldn't know what to do with my summer.

Stu Saks
Publisher

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

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Y2J SPEAKS!

SID'S SUICIDE MISSION: HUMILIATE GOLDBERG!
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THE MILLENNIUM MAN MOUTHS OFF!
An Unforgettable Hour With
CHRIS JERICHO!
His WCW Disappointments... His WWF Hopes... His Views On Bischoff, McMahon, ECW

When Chris Jericho agreed to chat with Associate Editor Will Welsh prior to his debut in the WWF, we didn't expect to get a controversial interview that would become a 12-page cover story for *PWI's* January 2000 issue—but that is exactly what we got!

Over the course of an hour, Jericho spoke about WCW, the WWF, and why he hopes ECW becomes the number-one wrestling promotion in North America.

Needless to say, many of our readers were shocked by Y2J's candid comments:

"I can't believe that Jericho doesn't want the WWF to be number one," wrote Jen Carter of Bedford, Indiana. "He's so hard to figure out."

"That was one of the best interviews that I've ever read," said Max Reed, who left a message on the *PWI* Hotline. "Chris didn't hide anything. He told it like he saw it."

"I'd like to see more extended interviews like this one," e-mailed Pete Hamilton of Rocky Fork, Tennessee. "After reading this interview, I feel like I know Chris, like I've been let into his world."

"500" FALLOUT

I was just writing to congratulate you on the great job you did with the *"PWI* 500." You guys did an excellent job on a very tough assignment. I mean, rating the top 500 wrestlers is no easy task, and no matter who you pick to be number one, there is going to be controversy. Any of those top 10 guys could have easily been chosen as number one.

My personal pick would have been Rey Misterio Jr. because of the awesome giant-killer streak he was on this year—not to mention the fact that he is always a top contender for the WCW cruiserweight title and almost dethroned Ric Flair for the World title.

However, Steve Austin had to overcome many obstacles, too, so my congrats go out to "Stone-Cold" as well.

Good job on the magazine, guys. Keep up the good work!

RANDY FOUSE
Cooper, TX

Even though reader Randy Fouse would have made Rey Misterio Jr. number one in the 1999 *"PWI* 500," he has no problem with "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin taking home the top spot for a second year in a row.

First of all, the *"PWI* 500" never ceases to amaze. While outstanding wrestlers such as Rob Van Dam, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin, the most electrifying man in sports entertainment, The Rock, and Goldberg deserved to be at the top, it still had its flaws. The way I see it, Mankind should have definitely had a spot in the top 10. He won three WWF titles against all odds and The Corporation. He also went one-on-one with "The Great One" numerous times—and most of the time he came out on top or with a tainted loss. Also, he won the tag title with both The Rock and Kane.

Second, as one of The Rock's top five moments of the year, you list that he retained the WWF World title by defeating Mankind at Rock Bottom. Now, Rock did retain the title, but if you carefully review the tape, you hear Vince McMahon say Mankind won the match, but The Rock retains the title because he never submitted.

Third, in your brief paragraph about Sting from the past year, you should have included that he won the WCW World title from DDP. Even though his reign lasted less than a night, it was still an accomplishment.

Finally, I agree with some of the *PWI* columnists who that say that Rob Van Dam is the best pound-for-pound wrestler out there today, but those who argue he should have been number one in the "500" because he only lost once—and it was because of interference—need to have a better argument. Goldberg had only one loss in the past year, and that was to Kevin Nash with assistance from Scott Hall and a cattle prod.

But overall, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin is the perfect choice for number one in the *"PWI* 500."

JACKY BRAMMER
Eden, NC

I can't believe your final top 10 of the *"PWI* 500." How could you possibly rank a wrestler the caliber of Kane at number 13?

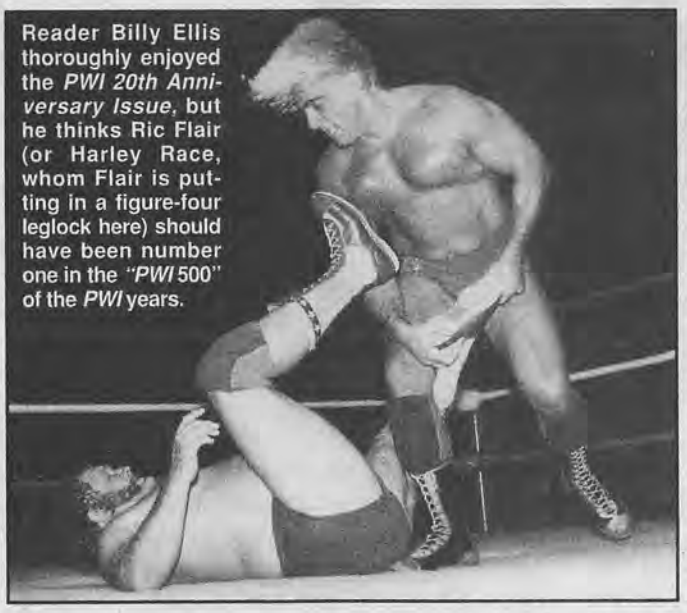
You can't tell me that wrestlers like Rob Van Dam, Rey Misterio Jr., or Dallas Page could defeat "The Big Red Machine." And I don't agree with Steve Austin being ranked at number one. There's only one number-one wrestler—and that's Kane.

BILL TRAVIS
Winfield, KS

I want to congratulate you guys on the *"PWI* 500." I am happy with Rob Van Dam being ranked number two. He was my pick for number one, but number two is okay with me. But I don't think that Steve Austin deserves to be number one again. He lost too many big matches, whereas Rob Van Dam had only one pinfall loss, and it took a total of five guys to beat him in that one-on-one match. There are also several other wrestlers who I truly believe deserve to be number one instead of Austin.

I only have one other complaint, and that is the low ranking of two of the future superstars of the sport. The two men I am talking about are Chris Benoit (20) and Billy Gunn (39). I truly believe that Rob Van Dam, Chris Benoit, and Billy Gunn are the future superstars of this sport. I predicted eight years ago that Steve Austin would be a superstar, and look where he is now. Now I feel stronger about these three wrestlers than I did about Austin.

DAVID W. WELLS
Fort Lauderdale, FL



Reader Billy Ellis thoroughly enjoyed the *PWI 20th Anniversary Issue*, but he thinks Ric Flair (or Harley Race, whom Flair is putting in a figure-four leglock here) should have been number one in the *"PWI* 500" of the *PWI* years.

ALL-TIME "500"

My compliments to everybody on your special 20th anniversary issue. *PWI* is definitely the wrestling magazine by which all others should be judged.

My letter regards your top 500 wrestlers and top 100 tag teams.

No way is Hulk Hogan number one in the *PWI* years. I've never seen anybody less deserving of anything. My number one would be Ric Flair or Harley Race. Hogan wouldn't even make my top 10.

As for the tag teams, it's hard to argue with The Road Warriors and Steiners as the top two, only I would have put the Steiners at number one. My number three would be Stan Hansen and Bruiser Brody. Also, teams like Bret Hart and Jim Neidhart (37), Scott Hall and Kevin Nash (40), the Briscos (54), and Harlem Heat (62) were rated way too low.

I'm sure you'll get opinions from everyone, but nonetheless, a great magazine. Good luck in the next 20 years!

BILLY ELLIS
Omega, GA

HOPING FOR 20 MORE

I was looking forward to your *PWI 20th Anniversary Special* hitting the newsstands, and I have to say it was the greatest wrestling magazine that I've ever seen.

I especially liked the section that was compiled by Harry Burkett. Talk about a poll of polls! The "Special Readers' Poll" was the bomb, baby!

I found it really interesting that the readers named Ric Flair the greatest wrestler of the *PWI* years, but when it came to the editors of the magazine, you placed Hulk Hogan number one in the *"PWI* 500" of the *PWI* years. It's just very interesting that we, the readers, felt one way, and that you, the editors, felt another.

That wasn't my favorite question of the poll, though. My favorite one had to be, "Who is the sexiest valet/manager?" Now this is what I'm curious about. Did any of the fine female readers of your publication vote for Paul Bearer? How about Sir Oliver Humperdink? Any votes for Ralphus? Here's hoping for 20 more glorious years.

JACK OTTO
Dayton, KY □

10 YEARS AGO IN PWI

***The cover* of *PWI's* March 1990 special double-issue featured Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard, The Ultimate Warrior, Lex Luger, Rick and Scott Steiner, Randy Savage, and Roddy Piper. What did all these stars all have in common? They were all big winners in *PWI's* year-end poll.**

***Elsewhere in the magazine:* *PWI* took a look at the year that was 1989 in several entertaining and insightful sections such as "Numbers '89," "Injury Report," and "Quotables" ... We included the "Unofficial Official Awards" and also published a wrestler-by-wrestler index of 1989 for *PWI* and its sister publications ... We also ran our standard allotment of columns and departments, including "Arena Reports" and "Wrestling Enquirer."**

***Availability:* Sold out.**

RINGSIDE

With Will Welsh

DEGENERATION X HAS reunited, and with WWF World champion **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** back at the helm, there is no telling what the outlaw group has in store for the federation.

"Yeah, we took a bit of a hiatus," Helmsley told me recently, "but that doesn't mean we won't control this damn company. Say what you will about us—and I've read your magazines, most of it's crap—but you can't deny that DX revolutionized the entire wrestling industry. And now that I'm the WWF champion, you can bet your sorry [butt] that we're going to take back what is ours—and that's anything we damn well want."

With Helmsley, **X-Pac**, **Billy Gunn**, and **Jesse James** reunited, there is no doubt that DX has once again become one of the most powerful factions in wrestling. If these guys are committed to keeping the WWF title around Helmsley's waist, I don't see where there is much that **Vince McMahon**, **Steve Austin**, or anyone else can do about it.

When **Bill Goldberg** walked out of the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, Nevada, after Halloween Havoc, he thought he was both the WCW U.S. and World heavyweight champion. It wasn't until the next day that Goldberg found out that while he still held the U.S. title (thanks to his victory over **Sid Vicious**), he wasn't the World champion, because his match with **Sting** was actually a non-title bout.

"No one told me the match was non-title," Goldberg said. "Sting said he wanted a fight, and I gave him one. But either way, title or no title, I kicked his butt and showed everyone why I'm the man to beat. I beat the U.S. champ and the World champ in the span of about 40 minutes. Do you think that anyone else in this company could have pulled that off? If you do, you're kiddin' yourself, man. Everyone knows that that the World title is mine. Everyone. It's just a matter of time before that belt is around my waist again."

Goldberg lost the U.S. title the next night to **Bret Hart** following the interference of **Scott Hall** and **Kevin Nash**, but that hasn't gotten him down. He's intent on that World title, and judging by the tone of his voice and the look in his eyes, I'm willing to bet he's going

Throughout his two WWF World title reigns, Hunter Hearst Helmsley has kept the belt around his waist by using aggressive, rulebreaking tactics. Now that he's back with DX, Helmsley has friends to help him pull off his mischief.

Is there anyone in WCW capable of stopping the indomitable Bill Goldberg? If Goldberg's dominant showing at Halloween Havoc—where he defeated Sid Vicious and Sting in less than an hour—is any indication, the answer is no.

to get what he wants.

In the January 2000 issue of *PWI*, I made mention of the revolving door that has been turning and turning amongst ECW's ever-changing talent roster. Well, folks, not surprisingly, it has happened once again, and I was lucky enough to be at the ECW Arena the night that **The Sandman**, a four-time former ECW heavyweight champion, returned home.

After a misspent year in WCW as **Hak**, Sandman's return to ECW is exactly what the company needs to help it rebound from the defections of **Taz** and **The Dudley Boyz**. The following might sound very familiar to loyal readers of this magazine (I used the same sentence to describe Taz in this very column two months ago), but Sandman is an individual ideally suited for ECW, and, yes, ECW is ideally suited for The Sandman.

By the way, another former ECW heavyweight champion returned to the ranks of ECW the very same night Sandman did. **Mikey Whipwreck** rejoined the promotion, but reigning ECW champ **Mike Awesome** ruined Whipwreck's homecoming by handing him a resounding loss.

Comic book fans (of which I am one), this news item is for you. Chaos! Comics continues to release comic books featuring the stars of the WWF. The latest one to come across my desk was the one-shot *Mankind* special—which is outstanding—and there are more on the way. Two that sound especially interesting are **The Undertaker** Halloween Special and a four-issue limited series starring **"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin**. Chaos! artisans have conjured up quite a few interesting worlds with their colorful, yet dark, imagery, and their writers have invented outlandish, yet suitable, scenarios that lend well to their personae.

Whether or not you like **Jeff Jarrett**, you can't deny that the man has some serious stroke. One night after losing the WWF Intercontinental title to **Chyna** at WWF No Mercy, Jarrett showed up in Philadelphia and clocked **Buff Bagwell** over the head with a guitar at *WCW Monday Nitro*. Two companies in two days? It doesn't quite equal **Rick Rude's** famous accomplishment of appearing on *Raw* and *Nitro* on the same night, but it is definitely something to brag about—and Jarrett is one of the best braggarts in wrestling today.

"Let me tell you something, Welsh," Jarrett said. "I was the greatest Intercontinental champion of all-time. I held the belt a record six times. I had nothing else to prove there. WCW, on the other hand, I left there two years ago because I wasn't appreciated. Now I'm back, and if they think the Jeff Jarrett they see before them now is the same one who left the company a few years ago, they're gonna find out how wrong they are."

Ultimo Dragon, a two-time former WCW TV champion, recently announced his retirement at a press conference in Tokyo. Dragon was always one of the most exciting high-flyers to watch, and it's a shame that his career was cut short by elbow surgery that basically left his right arm useless for wrestling purposes.

There are rumors that Oklahoma Pro Wrestling star **Rocco Valentino** is starting to distance himself from his clique, the **VIP**, which is short for Valentino's Important People. When I asked Valentino for a comment on the situation, he stonewalled me.

(Continued on page 84)

Jeff Jarrett says that he is the man with the most stroke in the wrestling business, and right now, he very well could be. One night after losing the WWF Intercontinental title to Chyna, he made waves by appearing at *Nitro*.

in focus

By Dave Lenker

YOUR YEAR-END TOP 10 LISTS

Ah, yes—the easiest "In Focus" column of the year to write. It's the only time all year that I don't really have to write my column. I just ask you to be creative and send me your best year-end Top 10 lists. So many of the lists I got this year were so great that it was harder than ever for me to pick the best. But here they are—the best of the best from this year:

TOP 10 NEW WRESTLING-RELATED PRODUCTS

10—Big Bossman pepper spray
9—Lenny and Lodi lollipops
8—Mankind socks
7—Gangrel's Ghoulade liquid refreshment
6—Breakaway WWF Spanish announcer desks
5—Steveweisers
4—Jeff Jarrett's "How To Play A Guitar" instructional video
3—The Rock's children's books, starring Roody Poo
2—"Triple-H's" industrial size bottle of nasal spray

... and the number-one new wrestling-related product:

1—*WCW Monday Nitro* sleep aids

—Chase Kenderes, North Versailles, Pennsylvania

TOP 10 WAYS THAT WCW WILL COPY THE WWF

10—Put only four matches on *Nitro* each week ... and have each last just two minutes
9—Ignore the fact that it has a cruiserweight title
8—Have Liz and Torrie Wilson rip off each other's clothes
7—Make Bobby Heenan yell, "Puppies!" whenever Kimberly comes out
6—Have Goldberg constantly refer to himself in the third person
5—Have the governor of Georgia referee the main event of SuperBrawl
4—Have Hulk Hogan moon the fans every 10 seconds
3—Have Sting swear like a sailor
2—Have Mike Tenay say the word "slobberknocker" during every match

... and the number-one way that WCW will copy the WWF:

1—Make Ric Flair wear a sock puppet

—Jason Amos, Columbus, Indiana

Would you drink what Gangrel drinks?

TOP 10 REASONS DUSTIN RUNNELS IS BACK IN WCW

10—If he went to ECW, he would have been Dustin Credible
9—Lenny and Lodi need a father figure
8—Dusty's chest is bigger than Terri's
7—WCW Motorsports wanted him for drag racing
6—Three words: shattered American Dreams
5—Wants Perry Saturn's old dresses
4—Arn Anderson needs somebody to stab in the back

3—August pay-per-view will be renamed "Rhodes Wild"
2—Daughter Dakota wants to be a *Nitro* Girl

... and the number-one reason Dustin Runnels is back in WCW:

1—Hey, it's only "Natural"

—Adam Preller, Chicago, Illinois

TOP 10 SUREFIRE WAYS TO MAKE MONEY IN PRO WRESTLING

10—Be a translator for Ahmed Johnson
9—Repair guitars for Jeff Jarrett
8—Paste pictures of Rena Mero on the covers of your old wrestling magazines and resell them
7—Own a junkyard in New Jack's neighborhood
6—Work part-time as Sabu's ambulance driver
5—Own a beer concession stand when Steve Austin rolls into town
4—Be the exclusive supplier of folding chairs and tables to ECW
3—Mug the tooth fairy just before she visits Mick Foley
2—Be the repairman for the Spanish announcers' table

... and the number-one surefire way to make money in pro wrestling:

1—Sucker some idiot into giving you a dollar for every time The Rock refers to The Rock

—Ben Foster, Dedham, Massachusetts

TOP 10 REASONS WHY MICK FOLEY IS A GOOD ROLE MODEL FOR CHILDREN

10—Likes to play dress-up and act out different characters
9—Always asks politely to borrow weapons
8—Always wishes for everyone to have a nice day
7—Regularly tries to make peace with his enemies by throwing them parties
6—Never harassed Rena Mero
5—Good with puppets
4—Always wears a tie to work
3—Plunges head-first into all of his endeavors (read: tables)
2—Stopped teasing Al Snow for fear of hurting his feelings

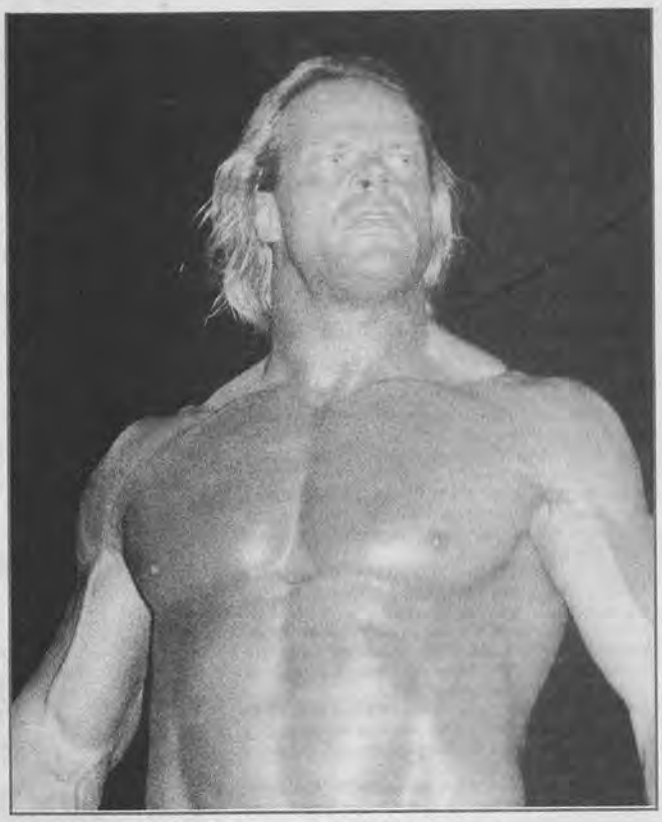
... and the number-one reason why Mick Foley is a good role model for children:

1—He brushes both of his teeth and washes behind his ear every day

—Stephen Davidson & Nathan Thomas, Tazewell, Virginia

TOP 10 REJECTED NEW NAMES FOR LEX LUGER

10—The Lexcellence of Lexecution
9—Lodi Luger
8—Package Boy
7—Rack Man



So many choices for Lex

6—The Ultimate Underachiever
5—The Total Disaster
4—Big Bubba Rogers
3—The Total Package (oh, sorry, that was the one he *did* pick)
2—The King of All Packages

... and the number-one rejected new name for Lex Luger:

1—That guy with Elizabeth

—Timothy Maxwell, Jacksonville, Florida

TOP 10 SIGNS THAT YOU'LL NEVER BE A WORLD CHAMPION

10—You're 55 and you still have to help set up the ring
9—You're best move is tapping out
8—Your hero growing up: Outback Jack
7—You can't even win matches on wrestling video games
6—Your catch-phrase is, "Please don't hit me!"
5—You happen to be Van Hammer
4—Not even the announcers watch your matches
3—Papa Shango put a curse on you so you'd never be a world champion
2—Your last opponent was a 75-year-old woman with a bad back ... and you lost!

... and the number-one sign that you'll never be a world champion:

1—You're only allowed to wrestle Ralphus!

—Jason Amos, Columbus, Indiana □

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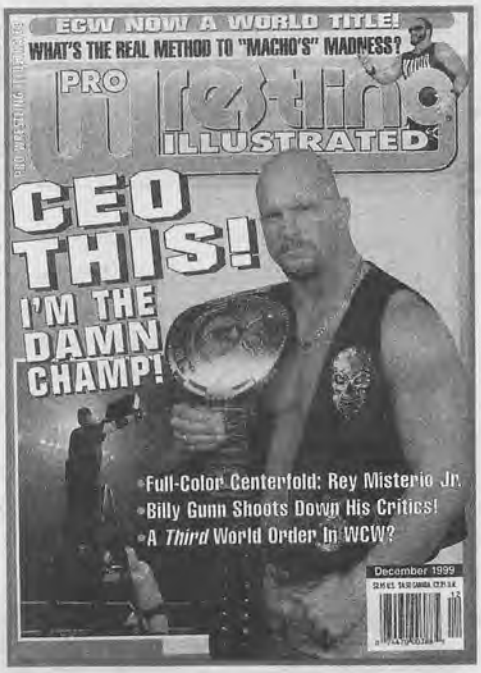
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off the top rope

by Brandi Mankiewicz

If you wish to contribute to Brandi's mailbag, send your letters to:

TOP ROPE
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Or send e-mail to:
OffTheTopRope @yahoo.com

(Editor's note: The opinions expressed in this column are those of the letter writers and Brandi Mankiewicz herself. They do not necessarily reflect the editorial views of this magazine.)

THE OUTSIDERS ARE back where they belong. Anyone who can get under the skin of Goldberg earns my immediate forgiveness for past fan favorite transgressions. Kevin Nash and Scott Hall are back to their anti-establishment ways, making life miserable for everyone in WCW.

Apart, the two became fan-pandering weenies. Together, they are classic examples of modern-day rulebreakers. They have a certain swagger and cockiness to them, and while they always garner cheers from the fans, that type of response is fine as long as it does not corrupt them. Could the re-formation of The Outsiders signify bigger things to come? Could we see a ***new*** *New World Order? Perhaps it wouldn't be a bad idea. The ways of the last NWO left a bad taste in my mouth.*

Not that the taste in my mouth is anything but welcoming. But you are not worthy of such pleasures. You are only worthy of worshipping me. For I am your champion.

Dear Brandi:

I would like to say that ECW is showing great improvement. In the past few months, Chris Candido with Tammy Lynn Sytch, Raven, Mikey Whipwreck, and The Sandman all returned to this company. Many said that ECW would fall apart because Shane Douglas and Taz left, but I don't think so. I like the fresh faces plus the familiar ones that got me watching in the first place. I was just wondering, Queen: Do you think ECW will become number two in the rankings?

JOE SLATEN
JoeSlaten@aol.com

Joe:

Never say never, but ECW does face some huge obstacles. WCW is owned by the monster called Time Warner, while the WWF has become a billion-dollar publicly traded company. You have to start somewhere, and ECW has a decent chance, but settling for the bronze may not be such a bad thing. ECW has a show on TNN and world title status from *PWI*. What did Bill Murray say in *What About Bob?* Something about "baby steps"?

Queen Brandi:

With Mankind's autobiography now available, which bios of wrestlers would you recommend or reject?

RUSSELL DOUCETTE
RuDou2@webtv.net

Russell:

I am partial to the more literary endeavors of the WCW Marvel comic book from the early-1990s. Seriously, the bios are primarily reserved for those who play to the fans, not the contrarians whom I embrace. Give me a good book on the life and times of The Sheik or the late, great Gino Hernandez. Men who have dedicated themselves to the fine art of rulebreaking. Instead we get the how-to-be-a-wrestling-hero guidebooks. *Yuck!*

Mikey Whipwreck has returned to ECW, as have Raven and The Sandman, but let's not start to talk about the federation becoming as big as WCW or the WWF just yet.

Brandi:

Hey! Well, I was just wondering what you thought of the WWF now. I think that it is slowly becoming

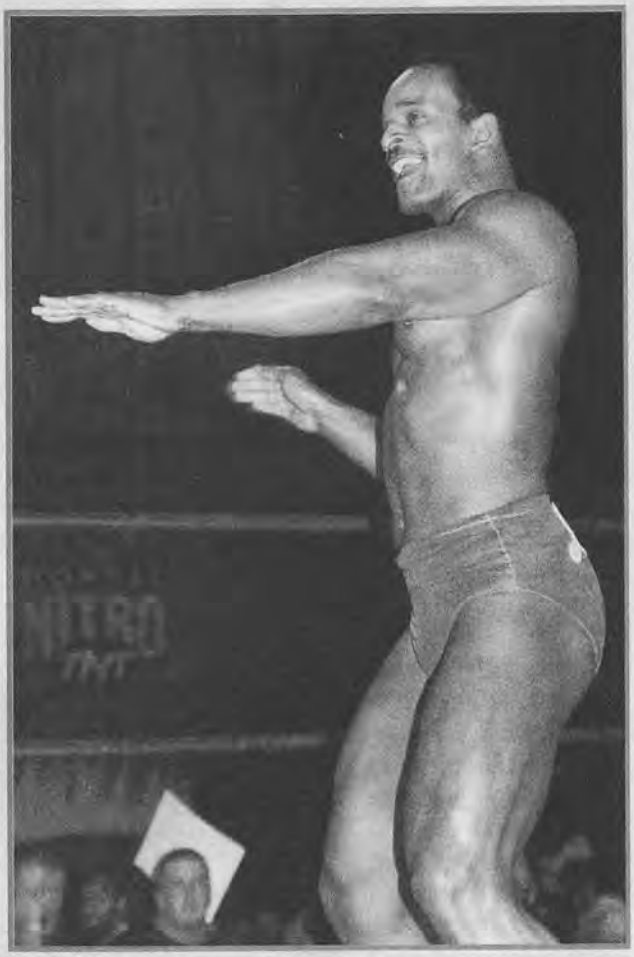
worse and worse in regard to entertainment. I know that right now the WWF is the most popular, and everyone just loves it, but not me. I'm not an Austin fan or a Rock fan. I'm sorry to say, but I think both of them are getting really old. As you probably know, I am a *diehard* fan of Shawn Michaels, even though he doesn't wrestle anymore. But all I know now is that wrestling is slowly falling because it just wants to please the fans. What do you think about this?

KEVIN PIAZZA
shawnm88@hotmail.com

Kevin:

While I loathe fan pandering, I cannot blame a wrestling promotion for giving the fans what they want. Wrestlers selling out to the gods of fan favoritism is one thing. Their salaries do not change. However, if a federation defies what the fans want, it loses revenue, pure and simple. It's called pragmatism. These are competitive times, with three major promotions vying for your hard-earned dollars. Do yourself a favor. Give in to the temptation and jump on that bandwagon. You know you want to.

I'll give Mick Foley credit. He did a great job with his autobiography, and it's selling very well. I wish other superstars—men committed to the dark side—would come out with autobiographies as well.



Don't criticize Norman Smiley just because he has rhythm. So what if he's obsessed with doing that big wiggle of his. When it comes time to wrestle, the man is pretty damn good.

Dear Brandi:

Norman Smiley is an idiot for having that big wiggle dance. Smiley should concentrate on his wrestling, *not his dancing!*

DAVE COX
dc3@mailcity.com

Dave:

Hypocrite. You're the same guy who will sing along with The Rock or point to your crotch like the numerous wrestlers engaged in that activity. You hoot and holler for puppies and beg for wrestlers who handle their own ring introductions. Smiley has dancing talents, but you cannot take away from his wrestling ability. I say let him dance. At least he wrestles more than he boogies.

Dear Brandi:

Why, Billy, why? Brandi, "B.A." Billy Gunn was showing such promise as a rulebreaker, so why would he go back to his crowd-pleasing ways now? And with no explanation or reason why. I am so disappointed and confused!

ALISA McLENNAN
alisa@nru.com.au

Alisa:

Like so many others, you obviously reacted much too quickly, Alisa. Give men like Gunn credit for coming up with master plans and letting them unfold slowly. You might have thought Gunn couldn't handle the setbacks he was encountering. But he had something in mind all along. I'm convinced of that. He made everyone, including you, believe that he and Road Dogg were reuniting and were going to be the same old fan-friendly New Age Outlaws. Disappointed and confused, Alisa? Get used to it. Men like Gunn know what they're doing. They're usually a step or two ahead of just about everyone (not me, of course) in their thinking. □

KREW-CUTS

By Frank Krewda

It's true that wrestling has changed for the better, but if there's one aspect in which the sport has regressed, it's in the use of nicknames.

In the early days, wrestlers adopted nicknames to fit their approach in the ring. Ask anyone who has ever locked up with **Ed Lewis** if he deserved the nickname **"Strangler."**

In the 1950s, **Dick Afflis** and **Reggie Lisowski** became known as **The Bruiser** and **The Crusher** because Afflis bruised and Lisowski crushed. Both names were brilliant in their simplicity.

Of course, the good old days weren't always so good when it came to nicknames. **"The Crying Greek From Cripple Creek"** revealed nothing about **George Zahorian** other than he was a sentimental Greek who lived near a body of water, and in later years, **"The Man"** did nothing to enhance the late **Stan Stasiak's** mystique.

But even these clunkers had a redeeming quality in their lyric and meter. Let's face it, "The Man" came about simply because it rhymed with Stan. I doubt anyone ever questioned Stasiak's gender.

Naming yourself **"Mr. Ass,"** however, raises all kinds of questions. And what the hell is a **"Dog-faced Gremlin"** anyway? If you're of the opinion that **Billy Gunn** behaves foolishly and **Rick Steiner** resembles a hound with an affinity for sabotage, I guess these names make sense to you.

While these names merely defy explanation, some nicknames defy truth.

Even though Ric Flair defeated Buddy Rogers in this 1979 match, wrestling fans will always remember Rogers as the original "Nature Boy."

Bret Hart is and always has been too much of a ring technician to call himself the **"Hitman."** That name would be better suited to his brother-in-law **Jim "The Anvil" Neidhart**, who sometimes wrestles as if he's carrying one in his back pocket.

Then there's the **"Nature Boy."** After 27 years in the business, there is nothing boyish about **Ric Flair**. Besides, any old-timer will tell you there is only one "Nature Boy," **Buddy Rogers**. Old-timers will also insist that wrestling's only **"Crippler"** was **Ray Stevens**, just as the only **"Killer"** was **Walter Kowalski**, and the only **"Giant"** was **Andre**. Dick the Bruiser was of the same mindset and once challenged **Bruiser Brody** for ownership of the name. Brody changed his name to **King Kong Brody** for a while. Similarly, Flair defeated Rogers in a 1979 battle of the "Nature Boys" and felt he earned the right to keep the name.

In more modern times, **Shane Douglas** and **Sting** have both laid claim to the **"Franchise"** moniker. That's no big problem; there are McDonald's franchises all over the world.

Another misnomer is **"The Living Legend."** Just because **Bruno Sammartino** molded **Larry Zbyszko** in his image, it doesn't mean Zbyszko has the right to usurp a name Sammartino earned. Zbyszko was a great wrestler and is a great announcer, but he is a legend only in his mind, as are most people who create their own nicknames.

Some self-inflicted nicknames, such as **"Y2J,"** can be cool. "Y2J" is cute, catchy, and timely. It will also

What kind of nickname captures the gory essence of Sabu's character? We're not sure one exists. Frank Krewda feels that Sabu doesn't really need a nickname.

be obsolete in the year 2002. What will **Chris Jericho** call himself then?

Another outdated nickname is **Rob Van Dam's "Mr. Monday Night."** Sensing that he wasn't headed to the WWF or WCW anytime soon, Van Dam came up with **"The Whole F'n Show,"** a cool and rather accurate name that lost some of its impact when ECW fans anointed Jerry Lynn **"The *New* F'n Show."** Van Dam finally settled on **"Mr. PPV,"** perhaps the most fitting name of all, since he has drastically reduced house show appearances to be with his wife while she recovers from a jet skiing accident.

Realistically, Van Dam is good enough to call himself anything he wants to. In fact, there are several wrestlers who, although they may not be the most accomplished athletes, certainly live up to their names. If **Ken Shamrock** wants to call himself **"The World's Most Dangerous Man,"** he won't get an argument from me. If **Steve Blackman** considers himself a **"Lethal Weapon,"** I'll take his word for it. **Shawn Michaels** was indeed **"The Showstopper,"** and **Scott Hall**, in the ring and out, continually reminds us that he is **"The Bad Guy."**

Still, having an appropriate nickname doesn't ensure that it will catch on. For example, **Taz** is most definitely a **"Human Suplex Machine,"** but that name doesn't exactly roll off the tongue. Nor does **"The Big Red Machine."** WCW's **Bobby Walker** may work hard, but wrestling fans don't want to be reminded of hard work; they want to be entertained. **Bam Bam Bigelow** supplements his first name, Bam Bam (a nickname in itself), with another nickname, **"The Beast From The East."** Overkill. Same goes for **Hunter Hearst Helmsley.** He can be **"Triple-H"** or he can be **"The Game,"** but he can't be both.

Chris Benoit has two nicknames, **"The Wolverine"** and **"The Canadian Crippler,"** but fans use the second more than the first. Of course, Benoit earned that name by breaking the neck of **Sabu**, who despite being homicidal, suicidal, and genocidal has never been tagged with a nickname of his own.

Then again, Sabu is such a colorful and exciting wrestler that he really doesn't need a nickname. Neither does **Goldberg.** But **Kevin Nash** and **Lex Luger** do. I'm not so sure **"Big Sexy"** still applies to Nash at this stage of his career, and **"The Total Package"** reeks of the '80s. So does **"Macho Man" Randy Savage.** How much violence is **Tommy Dreamer** really innovating these days? And couldn't **Kanyon** come up with something less pathetically derivative than **"The Innovator Of Offense"?**

But, as **The Rock** would say, it doesn't matter what the people call you, or even what you call yourself. It's what happens in the ring that counts. Just for kicks, however, here's my list of the top 10 nicknames in wrestling history:

10. **"Stone-Cold" (Steve Austin)**
9. **"The Sole Survivor" (Owen Hart)**
8. **"The Big Cat" (Ernie Ladd)**
7. **"The Madman From The Sudan" (Abdullah the Butcher)**
6. **"The Insane Luchadore" (Super Crazy)**
5. **"The Butcher" (Paul Vachon)**
4. **"The Bruiser" (Dick Afflis)**
3. **"Big Poppa Pump" (Scott Steiner)**
2. **"Bad News" (Allen Coage)**
1. **"Strangler" (Ed Lewis)** □

the JAPAN REPORT

By Mike Spillane

IT'S BEEN A year since **Naoya Ogawa** thrust himself into the international spotlight by beating New Japan Pro Wrestling superstar **Shinya Hashimoto** into unconsciousness. Ogawa, who was at the time the world's top judo star, was just beginning to dabble in pro wrestling and was being groomed by **Antonio Inoki** to become a crossover sensation. The groundwork was being laid for Ogawa to be the cornerstone of Inoki's UFO group.

When Hashimoto met Ogawa on January 4, 1999, at the Tokyo Dome, the impossible happened. Ogawa, the judo fighter, overwhelmed Hashimoto, New Japan's most dominant heavyweight of the last five years. Hashimoto was kicked repeatedly and pounded to a point at which he could barely defend himself. The referee stepped in, the ringside crew stepped in, and eventually even **Riki Choshu** stepped in to try to keep Ogawa off Hashimoto.

In the days that followed, Hashimoto vanished from the wrestling scene altogether. Since that fateful match, Ogawa has indeed gone on to become the top star in Inoki's UFO, and garnered worldwide acclaim for beating **Dan Severn** for the NWA heavyweight title. Both here in the States, as well as in Japan, Ogawa has been extremely difficult to beat, and his strong background in judo serves him well when his wrestling skills aren't enough to earn him victories.

NWA champ Naoya Ogawa has now completely dominated New Japan's Shinya Hashimoto at two Tokyo Dome shows. Hashimoto is willing to put his career on the line to get a third shot.

For months, Ogawa's star continued to rise as Hashimoto's continued to fall. Evntually, however, Hashimoto returned to the ring, 50 pounds lighter than before. Everyone expected Hashimoto to reclaim his position at the top of the division, but it hasn't happened.

Revenge was on his mind as he got set to face Ogawa again on October 11. The match was the topic of controversy in numerous wrestling publications, and among New Japan fans. All everyone could do was wait to see if it was really a fluke. Was Hashimoto past his prime? Was Ogawa really in the same class with the former IWGP heavyweight champion? When they met in the ring again, the result was only slightly different.

Ogawa seemed more respectful of Hashimoto's skills, but the reigning NWA champion was simply too much. Hashimoto was destroyed in the final minutes. Special referee **Tatsumi Fujinami**, one of Hashimoto's staunchest supporters, called for the bell himself as Inoki entered the ring to prevent Ogawa from seriously injuring Hashimoto. So brutalized was Hashimoto that the big man actually wept in pain.

Hashimoto has since begged for yet another shot at Ogawa. New Japan fans are looking to one of the Tokyo Dome shows in 2000 as a possible site for a rematch, but both New Japan and UFO promoters aren't so sure they want to book the match for a third time. Hashimoto has decided to lay everything on the line. "I'm going into retirement," he said at a press conference, "unless I get one more chance to prove myself against Ogawa. I can beat him. I know it."

While Hashimoto seems confident he can defeat the man who has embarrassed him twice, it's difficult to find anyone else who is as certain. Now New Japan promoters must face the decision of whether to give Hashimoto what he wants or risk losing one of its biggest stars of the past decade.

While the Ogawa-Hashimoto bout was the biggest news coming out of the October 11 Dome show, there was plenty of other action as well. **Jushin "Thunder" Liger** defeated **Kendo Ka Shin** to win the IWGP junior heavyweight title for a record-setting 10th time. No other athlete has ever won the title *five* times. Liger was by far the most dominant junior heavyweight in Japan throughout the '90s, and now he's poised to set the standard for the next decade as well.

Soo da, sayonara! □

the MEXICO REPORT

By John Molinaro

EL HIJO DEL SANTO, one Mexico's biggest stars, is engaged in an odd and bitter dispute with *Somos* magazine. The October '99 issue of the magazine ran a special feature on his father, El Santo, that featured pictures of the legendary wrestler without his mask.

El Hijo del Santo contends that the published photos belittle the memory of his father, who was buried in his mask after he died. Ironically, it was Santo himself who took off the mask and revealed his identity on national TV weeks before his death. However, El Hijo del Santo is enraged over the publication of the photos and is threatening to file a lawsuit against the magazine.

El Hijo del Santo was to have a mask vs. mask match against long-time foe **Fishman** on October 10 in Juarez, but the match was canceled days before the event when Fishman backed out. A week later, Santo beat **Sergio Galvez** in a mask vs. hair match.

The other big news coming out of Mexico is not good. Veteran wrestler **Brazo de Cibernetico** died of acute pancreatitis on October 27. Cibernetico (real name **Aaron Alvardo Nieves**) wrestled his last match 10 days earlier in Tlalnepantla. He was 33 years old.

Inside the ring in EMLL, **Shocker**, **Cien Caras**, and **Scorpio Jr.** defeated **Tinieblas Jr.**, **Mr. Niebla**, and **Rayo de Jalisco Jr.** in the main event at Arena Mexico on October 15. Jalisco remains CMLL heavyweight champion, however, as he defeated **Mascara Ano Dos Mil** in a recent match in Mexico City ... **Arkangel** retained his CMLL welterweight title by defeating **Astro Rey Jr.** on October 10 in Nezahualcoyotl ... Shocker continues to feud with former tag partner Mr. Niebla ... **Dr. Wagner Jr.** continues to compete for New Japan while maintaining close to a full-time schedule in Mexico.

Negro Casas celebrated his 20th anniversary in wrestling on October 29. He's still going strong, too, as he recently upended **Bestia Salvaje** in a hair vs. hair match in Guadalajara. He also teamed with **Atlantis** and Mr. Niebla to defeat Dr. Wagner Jr., Shocker, and **Villano III** in the main event at Arena Mexico on October 1. Villano III and Atlantis are continuing their heated feud ... Former ECW wrestler **Antifaz del Norte** has become a fixture in EMLL recently, while **Johnny Boyd** has made his debut.

EMLL plans to honor legendary *rudo* **Cavernario Galindo**, who died recently, by hanging a plaque commemorating his memory in the halls of Mexico City's venerable Arena Coliseo ... Astro Rey Jr. defeated **Valentin Mayo** on October 12 to retain his Mexican National welterweight title ... **Black Warrior** has been defending his NWA light heavyweight title against veteran **Emilio Charles Jr.** ... **Giant Silva** dropped his first match in Mexico on October 15, as he teamed with Tinieblas Jr. and **HeadHunter A** in a losing effort against Mascara Ano Dos Mil, **Satanico**, Cien Caras, and **Apolo Dantes** in a handicap match ... **Felino** has left AAA and returned to EMLL after a heated dispute with President **Antonio Pena**.

AAA star **The Panther** defeated veteran **Jerry Estrada** in a mask vs. hair match on October 3 in Monterrey ... **Cuerno de Chivo** lost his hair on October 17 in Monterrey when he dropped a four-way cage match against **Oscar Sevilla**, **Gran Apache**, and **Panthro**. In the main event of that card, **Latin Lover**, Panther, **Heavy Metal**, and **Mascara Sagrada II** defeated **Cibernetico**, **Psicosis II**, **Maniaco 2000**, and **Histeria II** ... **Virtual** beat **Mr. Condor** to retain the State of Mexico lightweight title on October 14 in Toluca ... **Esther Moreno** defeated **Xochitl Hamada** in San Luis Potosi to capture the *reina de reinas* (queen of queens) title.

The working agreement between Grupo Revolucion and EMLL continues, as **Fuerza Guerrera** defeated **El Suicida** in the main event on a joint card in Naucalpan. In the semi-main event, the Grupo Revolucion team of **Maniac Cop**, **Guardia**, and **Oficial** defeated the EMLL trio of **Satanico**, **Ultimo Guerrero**, and **Rey Bucanero**. □

El Hijo del Santo (seen here dropkicking Fuerza Guerrera) isn't just having to deal with in-ring feuds these days. He has a dispute with a Mexican magazine about which he is concerned.

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

TOP 10

1. **MIKE AWESOME**
   285, Tampa, FL
   (1) ECW World champion
2. **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**
   279, Greenwich, CT
   (2) WWF World champion
3. **VADER**
   450, Denver, CO
   (–) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
4. **BILL GOLDBERG**
   270, Tulsa, OK
   (6) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
5. **THE ROCK**
   272, Miami, FL
   (5) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
6. **STEVE AUSTIN**
   252, Victoria, TX
   (–) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
7. **BRET HART**
   235, Calgary, Alberta
   (–) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
8. **KEIJI MUTO**
   245, Yamanashi, Japan
   (3) IWGP heavyweight champion
9. **RICK STEINER**
   248, Detroit, MI
   (–) WCW TV champion
10. **CHRIS BENOIT**
    218, Edmonton, Alberta
    (–) No. 5 contender: WCW World title

Bret Hart

TAG TEAMS

1. **BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES**
   Combined weight: 516 pounds
   (5) WWF World tag team champions
2. **YUJI NAGATA & MANABU NAKANISHI**
   Combined weight: 455 pounds
   (7) IWGP International tag team champions
3. **BILLY KIDMAN & KONNAN**
   Combined weight: 432 pounds
   (–) WCW World tag team champion
4. **JUN AKIYAMA & KENTA KOBASHI**
   Combined weight: 491 pounds
   (–) All-Japan International tag team champions
5. **TOMMY DREAMER & RAVEN**
   Combined weight: 480 pounds
   (3) ECW World tag team champions
6. **JEFF & MATT HARDY**
   Combined weight: 422 pounds
   (9) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
7. **JUSTIN CREDIBLE & LANCE STORM**
   Combined weight: 459 pounds
   (–) No. 1 contenders: ECW World tag title
8. **HARLEM HEAT**
   Combined weight: 515 pounds
   (2) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
9. **CRASH & BOB HOLLY**
   Combined weight: 456 pounds
   (–) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
10. **AXL ROTTEN & MAHONEY**
    Combined weight: 663 pounds
    (–) No. 2 contenders: ECW World tag title

WCW

World Champion:
TITLE VACANT

1. **SCOTT HALL** *(–) 290, Miami, FL*
2. **BILL GOLDBERG** *(2) 270, Tulsa, OK*
3. **BRET HART** *(–) 235, Calgary, Alberta*
4. **RICK STEINER** *(10) 248, Detroit, MI*
5. **CHRIS BENOIT** *(3) 218, Edmonton, Alberta*
6. **SID VICIOUS** *(1) 318, West Memphis, AR*
7. **STING** *(C) 260, Venice Beach, CA*
8. **DISCO INFERNO** *(4) 238, Brooklyn, NY*
9. **BILLY KIDMAN** *(6) 195, Allentown, PA*
10. **NORMAN SMILEY** *(–) 238, London, England*

WWF

World Champion:
HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY
(C) 279, Greenwich, CT

1. **CHYNA** *(10) 201, Nashua, NH*
2. **THE ROCK** *(2) 272, Miami, FL*
3. **STEVE AUSTIN** *(–) 252, Victoria, TX*
4. **DAVEY BOY SMITH** *(8) 245, Leeds, England*
5. **TEST** *(–) 302, Toronto, Ontario*
6. **MANKIND** *(4) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM*
7. **VAL VENIS** *(9) 250, Las Vegas, NV*
8. **PAUL WIGHT** *(–) 500, Atlanta, GA*
9. **KANE** *(3) 345, parts unknown*
10. **BIG BOSSMAN** *(6) 310, Cobb County, GA*

ECW

World Champion:
MIKE AWESOME
(C) 285, Tampa, FL

1. **ROB VAN DAM** *(1) 237, Battle Creek, MI*
2. **SABU** *(2) 225, Bombay*
3. **JERRY LYNN** *(6) 214, Minneapolis, MN*
4. **YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI** *(3) 224, Tokyo, Japan*
5. **LANCE STORM** *(4) 234, Calgary, Alberta*
6. **JUSTIN CREDIBLE** *(8) 225, Waterbury, CT*
7. **SPIKE DUDLEY** *(7) 155, Philadelphia, PA*
8. **LITTLE GUIDO** *(10) 221, Howard Beach, NY*
9. **RHINO** *(–) 285, Detroit, MI*
10. **MASATO TANAKA** *(–) 235, Tokyo, Japan*

NWA

NWA Champion:
NAOYA OGAWA
(C) 286, Tokyo, Japan

1. **TERRY TAYLOR** *(–) 226, Atlanta, GA*
2. **BLADE BOUDREAUX** *(–) 230, New Orleans, LA*
3. **BIG DON BRODIE** *(–) 325, Jackson, MS*
4. **E.Z. RYDER** *(6) 230, Winnipeg, Manitoba*
5. **GARY STEELE** *(2) 241, London, England*
6. **RICK MICHAELS** *(–) 224, Jacksonville, FL*
7. **MIKE RAPADA** *(–) 231, Colorado Springs, CO*
8. **KEVIN NORTHCUTT** *(–) 348, Chalmette, LA*
9. **KNUCKLES NELSON** *(4) 225, Reno, NV*
10. **DOUG GILBERT** *(3) 241, Lexington, TN*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue. while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended November 10, 1999

ATLANTIC COAST CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Latin Lover; 1—Flex Phenom; 2—Timber; 3—Lord Everett DeVore; 4—K.C. Thunder; 5—Shank; 6—Dave Renegade; 7—Projecto Uno; 8—Carnage; 9—Toad; 10—John T-Cloud.

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—J.J. The Ring Crew Guy; 1—Ty Street; 2—Ground Zero; 3—Vince Goodnight; 4—Cheetah Master; 5—Glen Osbourne; 6—Boogie Woogie Brown; 7—Jeff Peterson; 8—J.R. Ryder; 9—Jimi V; 10—Reckless Youth.

GLOBAL PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Title Vacant; 1—New York Nightmare; 2—Scott Storm; 3—Treach Phillips Jr.; 4—Jeff Jett; 5—James Grizzly; 6—Johnny Jett; 7—Bubba Monroe; 8—Shawn Summers; 9—Bill Ash; 10—Tim Vain.

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Romeo Valentino; 1—Bruiser; 2—Julio Sanchez; 3—Tom Brandi; 4—King Kong Bundy; 5—Danny Rose; 6—Gillberg; 7—Cueball Carmichael; 8—Jimmy Cicero; 9—Gregory Martin; 10—Corporal Punishment.

NEW DIMENSION WRESTLING: Champion—Title Vacant; 1—Eddie Brown; 2—Brute Shooter; 3—Dirty White Boy; 4—Mike Gunner; 5—Toad; 6—Chilly Willy; 7—Rick Morton; 8—King; 9—Bobby Starr; 10—Big Slam.

NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—The Intimidator; 1—Dorty Reid; 2—Shane Hooker; 3—Bob Ozark; 4—Gino Blanchard; 5—Big E; 6—Tommy Brooks; 7—Spiffy Stevens; 8—Lady Scorpion; 9—Ace Shepard; 10—Mr. Breeze.

NWA NEW ENGLAND: Champion—Knuckles Nelson; 1—Whacko; 2—Dukes Dalton; 3—Curtis Slamdawg; 4—The Mercenary; 5—Abdullah the Butcher; 6—Trooper Gilmore; 7—Tony Rumble; 8—King Kong Bundy; 9—Tony Atlas; 10—Jason Rage.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Michael Modest; 1—Joe E. Legend; 2—Flash Flanagan; 3—Jimi V; 4—Jason Lee; 5—Cheetah Master; 6—Scott Furie; 7—Vince Goodnight; 8—Glen Osbourne; 9—Ty Street; 10—Eddie Valentine.

PORTLAND WRESTLING: Champion—Fatu; 1—The Grappler; 2—Brian Cox; 3—Lou Andrews; 4—Billy Two Eagles; 5—Bart Sawyer; 6—Steve Rizzano; 7—Greg Valentine; 8—Juggernaut; 9—Big Daddy Thunder; 10—Buddy Wayne.

RHODE ISLAND WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Bad News; 1—Danger Boy Alfredo; 2—Wolverine; 3—Pierre the Mountie; 4—Max Brannigan; 5—Danny Cama; 6—Dallas Austin; 7—Mael; 8—Davios; 9—Scott Thomas; 10—Bill Hall.

TEXAS CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Redd Dogg Begnaud; 1—Biohazard; 2—Jeremy Young; 3—Blake Wiggins; 4—Tejas; 5—Beast of Burden; 6—Larry Green; 7—Pendragon; 8—Coach; 9—Tommy Nero; 10—Krusher Kong.

WILD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING OUTLAWS: Champion—Guy Lombardo; 1—Don Basher; 2—Rob Ramer; 3—Johnnie Walker; 4—Itch Coma Wieder; 5—Indiana Kidd Jr.; 6—Johnny Eagle; 7—Shawn Cook; 8—The Executioner; 9—Vomit; 10—Convict.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
KEIJI MUTO
(C) 245, Yamanashi, Japan

1. **MASA CHONO** *(7) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
2. **JUSHIN LIGER** *(2) 206, Hiroshima, Japan*
3. **DON FRYE** *(5) 205, Sierra Vista, AZ*
4. **GENICHIRO TENRYU** *(4) 235, Fukui, Japan*
5. **KENSUKE SASAKI** *(6) 233, Tokyo, Japan*
6. **MANABU NAKANISHI** *(1) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
7. **HIROYOSHI TENZAN** *(9) 270, Tokyo, Japan*
8. **SATOSHI KOJIMA** *(–) 223, Tokyo, Japan*
9. **YUJI NAGATA** *(8) 220, Tokyo, Japan*
10. **SHINJIRO OTANI** *(–) 215, Yokohama, Japan*

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
VADER
(2) 450, Denver, CO

1. **MITSUHARU MISAWA** *(C) 228, Ashikaga, Japan*
2. **KENTA KOBASHI** *(1) 261, Fukuchiyama, Japan*
3. **JUN AKIYAMA** *(3) 230, Hiroshima, Japan*
4. **YOSHINARI OGAWA** *(9) 202, Tokyo, Japan*
5. **JOHNNY SMITH** *(–) 235, Manchester, England*
6. **AKIRA TAUE** *(4) 265, Chichibu, Japan*
7. **GARY ALBRIGHT** *(5) 343, Billings, MT*
8. **MIKE BURTON** *(–) 256, Austin, TX*
9. **TAKAO OMORI** *(7) 221, Tokyo, Japan*
10. **JOHNNY ACE** *(–) 250, San Bernardino, CA*

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
RAYO DE JALISCO JR.
(C) 270, Guadalajara, Mexico

1. **FUERZA GUERRERA** *(7) 180, Mexico City, Mexico*
2. **VILLANO III** *(8) 220, Mexico City, Mexico*
3. **EL HIJO DEL SANTO** *(2) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico*
4. **BLUE PANTHER** *(3) 215, Mexico City, Mexico*
5. **MR. NIEBLA** *(4) 185, Cualtitlan, Mexico*
6. **NEGRO CASAS** *(1) 175, Mexico City, Mexico*
7. **DR. WAGNER JR.** *(5) 215, Mexico City, Mexico*
8. **ATLANTIS** *(9) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico*
9. **ASTRO REY JR.** *(–) 165, Guadalajara, Mexico*
10. **SHOCKER** *(10) 185, Guadalajara, Mexico*

AAA

AAA Champion:
PERRO AGUAYO
(C) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico

1. **OCTAGON** *(2) 180, Monterrey, Mexico*
2. **LATIN LOVER** *(–) 190, Monterrey, Mexico*
3. **ABISMO NEGRO** *(–) 210, Pachua, Mexico*
4. **PERRO AGUAYO JR.** *(6) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico*
5. **HEAVY METAL** *(1) 180, Mexico City, Mexico*
6. **BLUE DEMON JR.** *(3) 180, Toluca, Mexico*
7. **PIRATA MORGAN** *(4) 221, Mexico City, Mexico*
8. **NYGMA** *(7) 179, parts unknown*
9. **EL TEXANO** *(8) 225, Mexico City, Mexico*
10. **JERRY ESTRADA** *(10) 239, Montclova, Mexico*

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating over 200 wrestlers in 22 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important–and respected–ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Where's the girl? **Chris Jericho** and **Jeff Jarrett** would almost certainly agree with our decision to leave **Chyna** out of the Top 10 in this issue, but we think she has done enough to warrant serious consideration for such a position. Sure, the match in which she beat Jarrett for the WWF Intercontinental championship—a "Good Housekeeping" match, in which household items were allowed to be used as weapons—won't be remembered as a mat classic, but Chyna did what she had to do to win that night. She outbrawled her opponent, used whatever weapons she could get her hands on, and got the pin.

Chyna

Those who argue that a woman shouldn't even be placed in such title matches really ought to take a closer look at Chyna when she's in the ring before making a final decision. Unless she's taking on one of the federation's super heavyweights, she doesn't have to deal with any ridiculous physical mismatches. Jarrett, after all, stands 5'10" and weighs 230 pounds, which makes him about one inch taller and 29 pounds heavier than "The Ninth Wonder Of The World." Jericho is 5'10", 225.

To put this in perspective, remember that both Jarrett and Jericho have scored pinfall wins over **Scott Hall** during their careers (Jarrett did so when Hall was competing as **Razor Ramon**). Hall stands 6'8" and checks in at about 290 pounds. So when facing him, both Jarrett and Jericho had to deal with a 10-inch height disadvantage and at least a 60-pound weight disadvantage.

The argument that she has had extensive help from **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** to beat men in the past is a legitimate one. When Chyna was vying for a spot in the 1999 King of the Ring Tournament, Triple-H did interfere a lot on her behalf, often when she seemed on the verge of defeat. Since Chyna won the I-C belt, however, you probably noticed she and Triple-H have not been coming to the ring together. Maybe we shouldn't read a lot into that, but then again, maybe Chyna, Helmsley, or both of them have decided that it's time for Chyna to prove she can be a successful I-C champ on her own.

The only reason we didn't place her in the Top 10 in this issue (she got the number 10 slot in the February 2000 issue of *The Wrestler)* is that she just wasn't a very active I-C champ in the weeks following her win. She did get into a series of confrontations with **Chris Jericho** at WWF TV shows and did score a clean win over **Stevie Richards**, but she failed to put the belt on the line consistently at arena cards.

If she keeps improving in the ring and adopts a more active schedule, she could become a fixture in our Top 10 and perhaps even become a serious contender for the World title. Don't laugh. Remember, she almost went into SummerSlam as the top challenger for that belt.

This 'n' that ... Nice to see **Vader** jumping back into the Top 10, as he won his second All-Japan Triple Crown by pinning **Mitsuharu Misawa** on October 30. Obviously, he has come a long way in his effort to rebuild his career and put the memories of the days when he was struggling in a WWF feud with **Mark Henry** behind him. He earned the number-three slot.

Vader

Despite winning the WCW U.S. title on November 8, **Scott Hall** didn't do enough during the month to earn a slot in the Top 10. In fact, if not for the help of **Kevin Nash**, he would not have won that belt. In WCW alone, we thought **Bill Goldberg**, who's been his usual dominant self of late, **Bret Hart** and **Chris Benoit**, who were both impressive in the early rounds of the World title tournament, and **Rick Steiner**, who has been defending the TV belt regularly, were all deserving of spots ahead of Hall.

Finally, as usual, deciding on the number-one team for the tag team ratings was a nightmare. We went with **Billy Gunn** and **Jesse James**. They weren't WWF tag team champions for the entire month, but even when they weren't, they were winning matches against some of the WWF's best teams.

That's all for now! If you have any questions or comments relating to our ratings, please drop us a line. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. □

PWI 99 ACHIEVEMENT — THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Section compiled by Dave Rosenbaum

IN 1999, A common debate was over whether the world really was at the end of not only a century, but a millennium. The debate went something like this: Since there was no year 0, and the count started at 1, then 100 years weren't up until the year 100 was finished, and 1,000 years weren't up until the year 1000 was finished. Thus, the new century, as well as the new millennium, will begin on January 1, 2001.

Wrestling fans might have been too caught up in the excitement of the past year to get too worked up over such debates, but it almost seems symbolic that with the turn of the page to the year 2000, wrestling moves boldly into the future and, indeed, leaves a century and a millennium behind.

Does that mean wrestling is about to undergo a drastic change? Does that mean we're about to enter an age of supersonic matches, futuristic rings, and wrestlers dressed like space aliens? Certainly, that's the vision we might have seen for the world and the sport in science fiction novels published at the start of the 1900s, and even in that futuristic cartoon ***The Jetsons.*** *But wrestling doesn't have to undergo an image makeover to signal that today is different from yesterday. That's something we already know.*

Certainly, WCW hopes that 2000 and the years ahead are different from 1999. In the final third of the year, Eric Bischoff, the president and main creative force behind WCW, was replaced by new Executive Vice President Bill Busch. Television writers Vince Russo and Ed Ferrara resigned from the WWF and took jobs as the creative directors of WCW. So what can we expect from WCW in the months ahead? More scantily clad women? Men dressed as pimps parading women around the ring? Racy, soap-opera like feuds that push the envelope of decency? More violence?

WCW fans already saw plenty of change in 1999, like Hollywood Hogan, rulebreaker, becoming Hulk Hogan, fan favorite, Kevin Nash dropping a loser-must-retire match, and Bill Goldberg moving back into the World title picture.

And what about the WWF in 2000? Certainly, more of the same dominance over the sport would be just fine with the federation, but can it retain its momentum and creative vision without Russo, who got a lot of credit for the WWF's resurgence? As in WCW, the WWF's version of the World title changed hands a record number of times in 1999, leading many experts to argue that there isn't a single dominant wrestler in the federation. The Rock, Steve Austin, and Mankind would beg to differ, as would Hunter Hearst Helmsley.

And ECW continued to expand with more pay-per-views, a weekly TV show on The Nashville Network, and the recognition of its heavyweight and tag team titles as world titles by PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED *and its sister publications. Yet, unable to match the WWF's and WCW's pay scale, ECW was hurt by defections.*

A two-way war for your attention has become a three-way war. New millennium or not, that's not going to change.

1999 SAW WWF World heavyweight title changes of nearly double-digits, including a remarkable victory by federation head Vince McMahon, who proved that not only can he arrive at the ring with plenty of power and a fistful of dollars, but he can wrestle, too. Among 1999's WWF World heavyweight titleholders were McMahon, Steve Austin, The Rock, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Mankind, and The Undertaker. Did anyone *not* win the WWF World title in 1999?

1999 SAW WCW World heavyweight title changes of nearly double-digits, as the federation searched for a major star to carry the flag and capture the wrestling world's attention. Dallas Page, Hulk Hogan, Sting, Kevin Nash, Randy Savage, and Ric Flair all wore the big belt, leading many to wonder, *Does it mean anything anymore?* Yet, when Sting was stripped of the title for abusing a referee, there was a feeling that order might yet be restored.

1999 SAW ECW continue to establish itself as a major force in the sport, although onlookers wondered how long it would take to actually happen. A regular weekly show on The Nashville Network increased the federation's audience, but its ratings only occasionally climbed higher than 1.0 during its first few months, far below what *Nitro* and *Raw* attract on Monday nights. And, by the end of the year, ECW had lost the very popular Taz to the WWF.

1999 SAW wrestling push further into the mainstream, as Jesse Ventura, the governor of Minnesota, gained attention for a foray into the wrestling ring as an official. Rena Mero again appeared on the cover of *Playboy*. Steve Austin (and other stars) again appeared on the cover of *TV Guide*, a WWF commercial at halftime of the Super Bowl attracted attention and controversy, and Mankind's new autobiography immediately shot onto the Amazon.com best-seller list.

1999 SAW ALL THIS—AND MUCH, MUCH MORE ...

PWI 99 ACHIEVEMENT

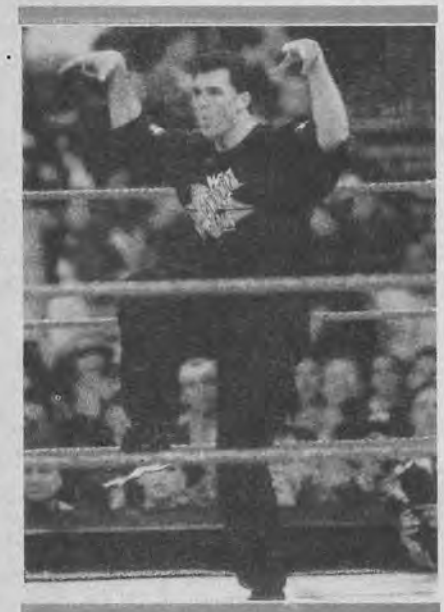
THE YEAR IN REVIEW

IT'S ONE THING TO FIGHT SID VICIOUS OR MASA CHONO. IT'S SOMETHING ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT TO FIGHT THE STAR OF THE MOVIE

"He combines the athletic grace of Baryshnikov with the romantic charm of Jean-Paul Belmondo." Could they be talking about Bill Goldberg in the Web site for *Universal Soldier: The Return?* Well, no, they're talking about Jean-Claude Van Damme, the star of the movie in which Goldberg made his feature film debut and fought Van Damme. Goldberg had much better luck with the boys from Megadeth, who even had one of its songs used as Goldberg's entrance theme for a while. Goldberg, multi-media star. Don't let him know we said this, but he could be the next Hulk Hogan.

NOW, YOU DON'T THINK THE FANS ARE GOING TO FALL FOR THAT OLD TRICK, DO YOU?

Well ... they did. After three years of being one of the most hated and heinous rulebreakers in WCW, Hollywood Hogan became Hulk Hogan again when he exchanged his black and white T-shirts for the yellow and red variety, and began playing to the fans, just as he did in the good ol' days of the WWF in the 1980s and early-1990s. What did Woody Allen say about the heart being an awfully resilient muscle? Obviously, in the case of wrestling fans, it can be broken and stomped on, but there's always room for forgiveness.



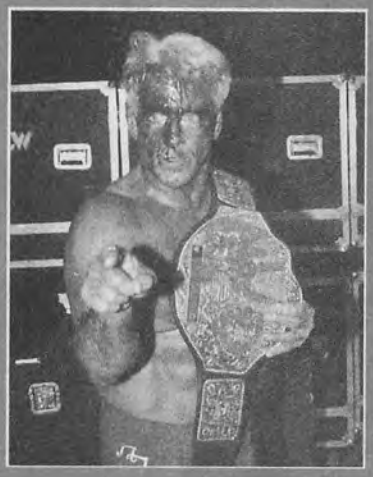
HE WHO LAUGHS LAST LAUGHS BEST, BUT HE STILL MIGHT LOOK LIKE AN IDIOT

Shane McMahon, who at the time held the European championship, retained his title at WrestleMania XV, thanks to Hunter Hearst Helmsley, and also did his best Karate Kid imitation, mocking X-Pac. Considering that Shane was willing to break his own father's ankle, it's no surprise that he had no fear of X-Pac ... as long as the other members of The Corporation were nearby.

"TODAY I CONSIDER MYSELF THE UNLUCKIEST MAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH"

In 1999, Steve Corino became the most hated man in ECW, not only because he refused to wrestle in ECW's trademark hardcore style, but also because of his feud with Tommy Dreamer. Corino, who considers himself an old-school hero—we can't print what ECW fans call him—attacked Dreamer during his retirement speech and ridiculed Dreamer for abusing his body by wrestling the hardcore style for six years. When Corino wasn't taunting Dreamer, he was often helping Yoshihiro Tajiri win his matches with some good old-school cheating. Either that or he was running away from Taz, who never get a chance to inflict a good beating on him before leaving for the WWF.

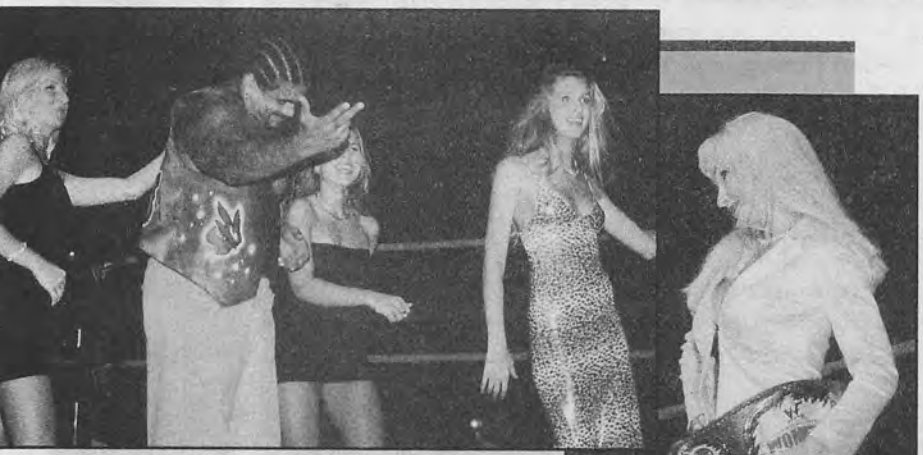
THE QUEST FOR NC-17?



In their ongoing attempt to appeal to a younger audience, the major federations tried to cut down on how much blood we saw on *Nitro* and *Raw*. But that didn't mean we didn't see plenty of blood on the pay-per-views! The message: If you wanna see blood, you gotta pay the price. "Stone-Cold" popped open a Steveweiser after his gory first-blood bout with The Undertaker. Ric Flair bled first in his first-blood match against Hulk Hogan at Uncensored, but he must have bled best, because the match wasn't stopped, and he went on to win. As for Mahoney, well, if he didn't bleed during one of his matches, you'd wonder if he was still alive.

MEMO TO NEW WCW EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT BILL BUSCH: DO NOT WRESTLE RIC FLAIR. REPEAT: DO NOT WRESTLE RIC FLAIR

1999 started on a humorous note, as Ric Flair had control of WCW for 90 days. Taking advantage of his role as Eric Bischoff's boss, Flair made the former WCW president do all kinds of embarrassing things, like sit in a dunk tank, clean arena bathrooms, sell souvenirs at a concession stand, and set up the ring ... and, much to our delight, all of these chores were taped and aired on *Nitro*.



CLASS, SASS, AND A PIECE OF ... WELL, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST STOP RIGHT THERE BEFORE WE GET INTO TROUBLE

REASON NUMBER ONE WHY YOU JUST DON'T MESS WITH THE OWNER'S SISTER

When Shane McMahon didn't approve of his sister Stephanie's relationship with Test, he did what any self-respecting brother would have done: He had him beaten up by a gang (The Mean Street Posse) while Stephanie watched. That is what any self-respecting brother would have done, isn't it? Isn't it?

QUOTABLES '99

"As much as I want to regain the WCW title, I'm not about to compromise my principles to do it."

—Sting, "Hotseat," *Inside Wrestling*, December 1999

"Hogan fears me; he always has and always will. He still has nightmares about me coming down from the ceiling to take his soul."

—Sting, "Press Conference," *PWI*, January 1999

"Sure, I could give [The Rock] a [European] title shot, especially if there was money to be made. But unlike D-Lo, The Rock isn't a hot box office commodity, and taking a match against a mid-carder like him just wouldn't be in my best interests."

—D-Lo Brown, "Ringside," *PWI*, February 1999

"For those of you who are ECW fans, if you like Taz, he's in ECW for three more years."

—Taz, before his contract negotiations with ECW fell through and he signed with the WWF

"You don't have to be from Texas to be a cowboy. I come from the badlands of Minnesota. My partners—Bobby Duncum Jr. and Barry and Kendall Windham—always complain about the heat in west Texas. Try pushing oxen when it's 20 degrees below zero."

—Curt Hennig, "Q & A," *The Wrestler*, November 1999

"I don't need some gimmick to get myself back in the title picture. What do I look like, Hollywood Hogan or Sting? That's their kind of thing."

—Curt Hennig, "Will Hee Haw Hennig Take The Rap?" *Wrestle America*, December 1999

"I blow [Sable] away in both the beauty and brains department. I'm the queen of the WWF, and it's time for her to make her exit."

—Debra, "Ringside," *PWI*, March 1999

"I guess everybody knows I used to go to the matches at Madison Square Garden and always hoped I could be as great as my heroes. Now it's happened."

—Mankind, "Ringside," *PWI*, May 1999

*"Goldberg is a media creation. He piles up 150 victories and he makes the cover of **TV Guide** and all kinds of guest spots and TV shows."*

—Bam Bam Bigelow, "Press Conference," *PWI*, August 1999

"It took Nash, Hall, a stun gun, and a conspiracy to get the belt back to Hogan. It took me only nine minutes to win it in the first place. Who will you bet on?"

—Bill Goldberg, "Press Conference," *PWI*, June 1999

"Well, as you can tell by looking at me, I'm something of a gym rat."

—Steve Corino, "Q & A," *The Wrestler*, October 1999

*"Welcome to **Raw Is Jericho!**"*

—Chris Jericho

"It's good to be home. I missed being a thorn in the side of Tommy [Dreamer]. You shoulda seen his face when I handed him his title belt. It was a 'What the hell are you doing

here?' kind of look. It was great."

—Raven, "Raven Leaves WCW, Wins ECW Tag Title," *PWI Weekly*, September 13, 1999

"We live in a sexually permissive world. The only difference is that unlike most women, I don't ask permission."

—Terri Runnels, "The 50 Most Beautiful People In Wrestling," *PWI*, February 1999

"... I'm not going to become the Hulk Hogan of the '80s again. He couldn't survive in this day and age. You have to have a bad side to succeed in wrestling, and that guy didn't have a bad bone in his body."

—Hulk Hogan, "Ringside," *PWI*, August 1999

"The Rock and the WWF are synonymous. We are one. Without The Rock, the WWF is nothing and has no purpose."

—The Rock, "Press Conference," *PWI*, September 1999

"I realize that I've made some mistakes in the past, some bad decisions. But I've also made some good decisions. Regardless of what I've done in the past, I am willing to do whatever it takes to make WCW the most successful company in the world again."

—Eric Bischoff, "Ringside," *PWI*, October 1999

"There won't be any more committees, because there is no time for them with all the product that is on the air. All creative decisions will begin and end with me."

—New WCW TV writer Vince Russo, "Vince Russo Leaves WWF, Joins WCW," *PWI Weekly*, October 18, 1999

"[Billy Gunn and I] are wrestlers first and foremost; we're a team second. Nothing personal. Nothing that would destroy a friendship. Just two guys seeing who is the better man."

—Jesse James, "Press Conference," *PWI*, July 1999

"Frankly, I've always enjoyed defying convention. I've always gone in the out door. I never did nothin' normal. Suddenly, the people out there don't like it anymore."

—Roddy Piper, "Press Conference," *PWI*, November 1999

Paul Heyman has a philosophy: If you don't want to be here, goodbye. If you're a wrestler, it's fair. It gives you no leverage to hold against your boss. If The Ultimate Warrior wanted to come in, it would be like, 'This is the way it is, and that's that.'"

—Tommy Dreamer, "Superstar Interview," *Wrestling Superstars*, December 1999

"[Professional wrestling] has in the recent past become increasingly obscene, titillating, vulgar, and unsafe."

—Rena Mero lawsuit against the WWF

"I don't like Ted Turner as a human being. I don't like the son of a bitch."

—Vince McMahon in the October 1999 issue of *Talk*

"There is no one more mentally sharp than Ric Flair. My mind is clear, and there's nothing wrong with my mental state. Piper and David tried to put me away, but it didn't work. You gotta be a lot sharper than they are to put one over on Ric Flair."

—Ric Flair, "Q & A," *The Wrestler*, September 1999

"This is my time to be the number-one man in this business."

—Hunter Hearst Helmsley, "Q & A," *The Wrestler*, December 1999

"'The Franchise' is all about gold. The real gold ... If I were to go to WCW, it would be to wrestle Goldberg or Hogan or Flair or whoever has [the World] belt."

—Shane Douglas, "Superstar Interview," *Wrestling Superstars*, August 1999

"Ten years from now, people are still going to be feeling the effects of the NWO."

—Kevin Nash, "Q & A," *The Wrestler*, Holiday 1999

JUST TRYING OUT HIS NEW WEAPON

Actually, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin isn't doing anything of the kind. He's just doing something that people get to do when they become really famous: pull on a baseball jersey and take batting practice in a Major League batting cage at a Major League ballpark. Austin got his chance at Veterans Stadium in Philadelphia, home of the Phillies. He also threw out the first pitch at a New York Mets game at Shea Stadium, by the way.

WHAT I'LL DO IF I'M ELECTED GOVERNOR

Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura drew the ire of newspapers in his state for his continued involvement with professional wrestling, even though Ventura was supposed to be doing the business for the good people of Minnesota. Exactly what state business were Governor Jesse and Bill Goldberg discussing at the Minnesota Timberwolves game they watched together? And giving the heave-ho to Shane McMahon, who tried to interfere in the Mankind vs. Hunter Hearst Helmsley vs. Steve Austin match at SummerSlam, also at the Target Center in Minneapolis ... is that the governor's idea of law and order?

STEALING FROM THE RICH TO GIVE TO THE POOR

Mankind was so angry when WWF head Vince McMahon cheated him out of the WWF World heavyweight title at the Royal Rumble that he hit McMahon where it hurts: right in the pocket. McMahon had offered $100,000 to any wrestler who could eliminate Steve Austin from the Royal Rumble. The Rock got the job done, and McMahon was ready to give him the money the next night at *Raw* when Mankind grabbed the bag from a security guard and started tossing money into the crowd.

WELL, IF YOU ASK US, IT BEAT THE HECK OUT OF THE MASTER LOCK COMMERCIAL

The WWF grabbed headlines with a racy commercial broadcast during the 1999 Super Bowl. The commercial featured, among other things, a man being thrown out of a window at Titan Tower, the WWF's corporate office, and a woman having simulated sex with an office worker on top of a desk. Once again, the WWF was criticized by the national media for promoting sex and violence. Apparently they didn't "get it."

AFTER RETIRING, HE WORKED BRIEFLY AS AN AVON LADY

Few feuds raged hotter in 1999 than the brief one between Kevin Nash and Randy Savage, which not only featured Nash filling Savage's limousine with raw sewage, but also included Savage and his bevy of beauties holding down Nash and putting lipstick and makeup all over his face. Not to be a bunch of wiseguys or anything, but is that what Nash means by "Big Sexy"?

1999 WAS THE YEAR THAT ... YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO BE A WRESTLER TO BE A WRESTLING CHAMPION

We mean, can you imagine Major League Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig pitching for the Brewers in Game 7 of the World Series? Can you just imagine NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman's son strapping on the pads and playing goal for the Detroit Red Wings in the Stanley Cup finals? Of course not. But, in the wonderful, wacky world of wrestling, two favorite sons were able to win major titles in 1999: Shane McMahon, son of Vince, won the WWF European title and looked great in the ring, and David Flair, son of Ric, was handed the WCW U.S. title. And we didn't even know they were wrestlers! Come to think of it, neither did they!

HMMMMMM ... THAT LADY LOOKS FAMILIAR. THE BLONDE HAIR. THE BEAUTIFUL EYES. THE KILLER BOD ...

Sable, perhaps the most famous female in wrestling history, left the WWF, then filed a $110-million lawsuit against the federation, claiming negligence, breach of contract, unfair trade practices, and intentional infliction of emotional distress. Her out-of-court settlement with the federation prohibited her from using the name Sable, meaning she had to go back to her real name, Rena Mero. Heck, she said, she liked the old name better anyway. Mero showed up at the June 14 edition of WCW's *Nitro*, sat in the audience, and the TV cameras *somehow* found her.

ONE GIANT STEP FOR MAN, ONE GIANT STEP BACKWARD FOR WOMAN

Soon after Ryan Shamrock, sister of Ken Shamrock, came to the WWF, she said, "I'm tired of being ordered around by the men of the WWF, and I like the stand that Jacquelyn and Terri have taken." She meant Jacquelyn and Terri Runnels of the oddly named group PMS (Pretty Mean Sisters). Shamrock eventually made it a trio, and she showed off her independence by having her way with Shawn Stasiak, who called himself Meat at the time. PMS is gone now. Ryan Shamrock is gone. Stasiak's not calling himself Meat anymore. Nor, to our knowledge, is anybody else.

MEET LENNY LANE: TALENTED WRESTLER. FORMER WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION. LOVING BROTHER ... MAKE THAT *VERY* LOVING BROTHER

One of the weirdest stories of 1999 occurred in WCW, when Lenny Lane and Lodi did a gimmick in which they insinuated that they might be lovers. They actually never said that. They simply said that they were real close. After a while, Lenny and Lodi admitted the truth: They're brothers. Anyone out there believe them?

AS GIANT KILLERS GO, WE'D PLACE HIM A NOTCH ABOVE THE 1-2-3 KID, BUT A NOTCH BELOW JACK, THE BEANSTALK GUY

Tiny 5'3", 140-pound Rey Misterio Jr. became wrestling's latest giant killer when he defeated Kevin Nash, Bam Bam Bigelow, and Scott Norton early in the year, this after he was pinned in a tag team match against Nash and Hall and had to remove the mask he had worn for his entire career.

NUMBERS '99

0.9 is the Nielsen rating number of the first *ECW On TNN* broadcast. The August 27 show featured the Rob Van Dam vs. Jerry Lynn classic from Hardcore Heaven.

6 title belts are what All-Japan Wrestling President Mitsuharu Misawa possessed after he and Yoshinari Ogawa defeated Takao Omori and Yoshihiro Takayama on August 25. They were as follows: three from the Triple Crown championship, and one each from the All-Japan All-Asian, All-Japan International, and Pacific Wrestling Federation tag titles.

10 years is how long "Big Show" Paul Wight will remain with the WWF after signing a contract with the promotion in February.

12 is where Bill Goldberg ranked on *Playboy's* college campus survey listing the best athletes alive. Goldberg was tied with John Elway and Sammy Sosa. There were 445 athletes named.

15 is the number of times the WWF World tag team title has changed hands as of press time since last year's Year In Review hit the newsstands. During this 12-month period, Mankind and The Rock held the belts three times; Undertaker and Paul White, X-Pac and Kane, Bradshaw and Faarooq and Billy Gunn and Jesse James held them twice each; Owen Hart and Jeff Jarrett, Matt and Jeff Hardy, and Bob and Crash Holly, and Mankind and Al Snow held them once each.

19 months is how long current champion Rob Van Dam had held the ECW TV title as of press time, making him by far the longest-reigning champion in the Big Three.

60 was Shohei "Giant" Baba's age in years at the time of his death on January 31 in Tokyo. Baba died after a brief bout with cancer of the bowels.

90 was the approximate number of minutes it took before "Diamond" Dallas Page reclaimed the WCW World title in a four-way match against Sting, Bill Goldberg, and Kevin Nash on April 26 in Fargo, North Dakota. Earlier in the card, Sting defeated Page for the title.

200 hours of community service is what Scott Steiner was ordered to perform by Judge C. Michael Roach for hitting Georgia highway employee Paul Kaspareen with his pickup truck on April 21, 1998. Steiner was also sentenced to 10 days in the Cherokee County Jail and ordered to pay a $25,000 fine.

1,300 is the approximate number of mourners who gathered in Calgary, Alberta, on May 31 to pay their final respects to Owen Hart, who tragically fell to his death on May 23 at the WWF's Over the Edge pay-per-view at Kemper Arena in Kansas City, Missouri.

35,800 is the approximate number of WWF fans who filled the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, where the corporate headquarters of WCW is located, for *Raw Is War* on October 13. The main event saw The Rock and Mankind defeat Val Venis and Davey Boy Smith.

120,000,000 dollars is what Nicole Bass sought from the WWF in a lawsuit filed on September 17. Bass sought $20 million in compensation for alleged sexual harassment and $100 million in punitive damages. No settlement had been reached as of press time.

TWO WRESTLERS GOT INTO THE RING, HAD A BOXING MATCH, AND ENDED UP HAVING A WRESTLING MATCH. GOT THAT?

If there was ever a reason why wrestlers shouldn't box, we saw it at Bash at the Beach, when Buff Bagwell squared off against Roddy Piper. For reasons we can't understand, special referee Mills Lane—a boxing ref—counted the pinfall after Bagwell hit Piper with his blockbuster finisher. Message to Lane: pinfalls, wrestling ... knockouts, boxing.

WE FOUND THE FOOL THE FOOLPROOF PLAN WOULDN'T WORK FOR!

Vince McMahon claimed to have a foolproof method for beating Steve Austin in their cage match at the St. Valentine's Day Massacre, but his scheme totally backfired. First, Austin bloodied him and battered him silly. Then, when Paul Wight—The Big Show—made his WWF debut by cutting through the bottom of the ring to help McMahon, the cage collapsed. Wight ended up carrying a bloody McMahon back to the locker room.

THIS IS GONNA HURT YOU MORE THAN IT'S GONNA HURT ME

Billy Gunn proved that he was the stronger of The New Age Outlaws (at least for a night) when he defeated former partner Jesse James in a good match in Springfield, Massachusetts. Gunn and James got back together shortly afterward. The same was true of the ECW duo of Axl Rotten and Mahoney, who had promised each other that if they didn't win the ECW tag team title, they'd beat the heck out of each other. Having failed in their goal, they split up, destroyed each other in a couple of matches, then got back together.

HECK, THE WWF MIGHT BE GETTING BETTER RATINGS BUT IF IT'S MUSIC YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, IT'S WCW ALL THE WAY, MAN!

The WWF had Steve Austin, The Rock, and Mankind, but who cares when WCW had such fine musical groups as The West Texas Rednecks—Curt Hennig, Barry and Kendall Windham, and Bobby Duncum Jr., seen here performing "Rap Is Crap"—The Insane Clown Posse, and the No Limit Soldiers.

INJURY REPORT '99

•**Steve Austin** suffered strained ligaments in both knees as a result of a post-match attack from Hunter Hearst Helmsley on the July 26 *Raw Is War* from Cleveland. "Triple-H" attacked Austin's knees again at SummerSlam '99, forcing Austin to miss almost one month of action.

•**Darren Drosdov** was left paralyzed from the waist down on October 5 after landing awkwardly on his neck after an attempted running Liger bomb by D-Lo Brown at a *Smackdown* taping at the Nassau County Coliseum in Uniondale, New York.

•**David "Fit" Finlay** severed a nerve below his left knee when Brian Knobs sent him through a table on July 25 in Jackson, Mississippi. Finlay also suffered head and neck injuries. Due to the severity of his injuries, no timetable was given for Finlay's return, and he was still out at press time.

Austin vs. Helmsley

•**Bill Goldberg** suffered a severely bruised ankle and reinjured his knee at Slamboree on May 9 when Bret Hart attacked him during his match with Sting. Goldberg returned to *Nitro* on July 5 at the Georgia Dome.

•**Tommy Golden** broke several ribs in a tag team match with J.J. Johnston against Chris Krueger and Mr. Ooh La La on February 5 in Reading, Pennsylvania. He missed three months.

•**Eddy Guerrero** suffered a broken hip, punctured liver, and severed calf muscle in a car crash on January 1 in Tampa, Florida. Guerrero missed almost six months of action, but made a full recovery.

•**Hollywood Hogan** suffered torn ligaments in his left knee after Dallas Page put him in a figure-four leglock around the ringpost during a four-corners WCW World title match at Spring Stampede on April 11. Hogan underwent surgery and returned on July 12 to win the World title from Randy Savage.

•**Jason** fractured his neck on February 18 in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, after being power-bombed by Chris Chetti. Surprisingly, Jason missed just two weeks of action and later competed while wearing a neck brace.

•**Toshiaki Kawada** broke his forearm after striking Mitsuharu Misawa with a spinning backfist during their All-Japan Triple Crown championship match on January 24. Amazingly, Kawada held on to win Misawa's crown, but missed three months and was forced to forfeit the title. On August 23, Kawada accidentally bumped heads with another wrestler during a six-man tag match and experienced double-vision. He underwent several unsuccessful surgeries and as of press time had not returned to the ring.

Hart attacks Goldberg

•**Kenta Kobashi** suffered a broken nose in a June 11 match against All-Japan Triple Crown champion Mitsuharu Misawa in Tokyo. Kobashi was expected to miss one month but returned less than two weeks later.

•**Yuel Lovett** broke his leg during a match with Navy SEAL on March 16 in Thonotossassa, Florida. After making his comeback, Lovett died of cardiac arrest on July 31 during a tour of Peru. He was 25.

•**Jerry Lynn** suffered a broken nose and a concussion during his match with Rob Van Dam at ECW Hardcore Heaven on May 16 in Poughkeepsie, New York. He returned to action 12 days later.

•**Lex Luger** tore a biceps tendon in his left arm during a match with Konnan on January 30 in Los Angeles. Luger later underwent surgery and missed approximately five months of action.

•**Charles Robinson** suffered a collapsed lung and fractured ribs in a tag team match with Ric Flair against Randy Savage and Gorgeous George on May 17 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, as the result of two top-rope elbowdrops by Savage. Robinson missed four weeks of action.

•**Vampiro** suffered a fractured nose and eye socket and had several of his teeth loosened when he was hit by Billy Kidman's shooting star press at Fall Brawl on September 12 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He was out for two weeks.

•**Wrath** tore his anterior cruciate ligament after landing a flying clothesline on Jerry Flynn at *Thunder* on April 15. Wrath underwent surgery to repair his knee on April 29. He was expected to miss up to six months, but had yet to return to a WCW ring as of press time.

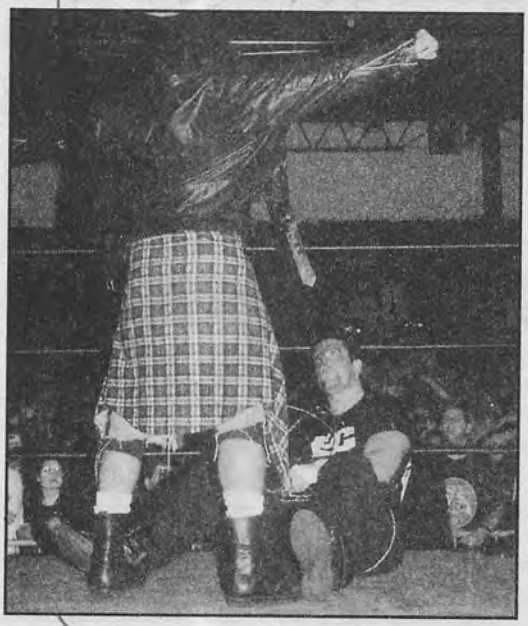
[Note: Bam Bam Bigelow (back), Shane Douglas (torn biceps), Bret Hart (groin), Mark Henry (knee), Chris Jericho (ankle), Dean Malenko (back), Mankind (knees), Ken Shamrock (neck), Rick Steiner (shoulder), Scott Steiner (back), and The Undertaker (ankle/knee/groin) all missed significant time in the ring in '99, but their injuries were of a cumulative nature, and no specific date of when they occurred can be pinpointed.]

Kenta Kobashi

WHO WOULD HAVE EVER THOUGHT?

Fabulous Moolah and Chyna did their part to prove that not only can wrestling's women flaunt, shake, sue, and yap a lot, but they can also wrestle, by capturing two major titles at the WWF's No Mercy pay-per-view on October 17. Chyna became the first female Intercontinental champion when she humbled Jeff Jarrett, and the ageless Moolah (she won't tell us her exact age) captured the WWF women's title by pinning Ivory. "This victory was good for all the women of the WWF," Chyna crowed. In her postmatch interview, Moolah referred to a lot of people as "Hon."

NEXT THING YOU KNOW, STEVE AUSTIN WILL BE TEAMING WITH VINCE McMAHON



Raven, who hadn't been seen in ECW since losing a loser-leaves-the-federation match to Tommy Dreamer in June 1997, shocked the wrestling world by returning to ECW on August 26 ... and saving Dreamer from an attack by The Dudley Boyz. Raven and Dreamer on the same side? It couldn't be true. "I don't know what he's trying to pull, but it's not going to work," said a stunned Dreamer. "I still hate his guts." But Raven and Dreamer, despite their bad feelings for each other, formed a tag team and won the ECW World tag team title that night, proving that you don't have to like your partners. You just have to work with them.

WILL THE REAL YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI PLEASE STAND UP?

The man in the above two photos is the same person. But he looks, acts, and wrestles differently. Both are photos of Yoshihiro Tajiri, a wrestler from Japan who was a spectacular aerial and technical artist when he arrived in ECW. Clean-cut and proud of his ability, Tajiri was one of the bright lights of ECW. Before long, Tajiri hooked up with Steve Corino, grew a beard, changed his look and his attitude, started spewing green mist, and got everyone in a tizzy over what a mean guy he had become. Oh, he also became one of the top contenders to the ECW World title. So much for crime not paying.

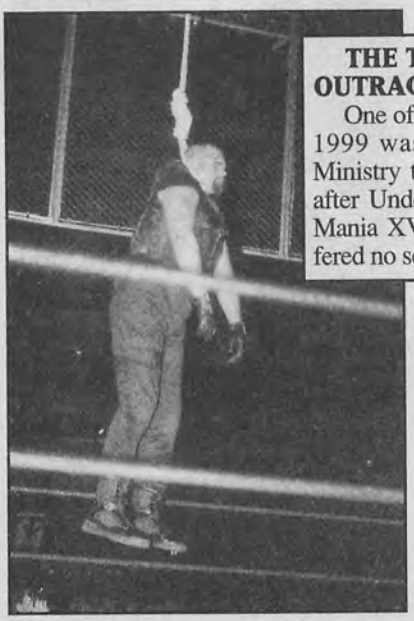
PWI 99 ACHIEVEMENT — THE YEAR IN REVIEW

"YOU SEE, JERRY, THIS IS ACTING, AND WE'RE ACTORS"

Jerry Lawler, playing himself, and actor Jim Carrey, playing the late comedian Andy Kaufman, made headlines last year for their heated exchanges during the filming of *Man On The Moon* when Lawler roughed up Kaufman while filming the wrestling scenes. Citing the welfare of his acting career, Carrey reportedly turned down a million-dollar offer from the WWF to appear as Kaufman at WrestleMania XV.

LADIES MAN

Randy Savage used to be your average, semi-normal American. The beautiful wife (Elizabeth), the good job, the friends and admirers everywhere. But some guys simply get the itch once in a while, and they have to scratch it. Savage loved being surrounded by his entourage of Madusa, Miss Madness, and Gorgeous George, but only one of the three lovely ladies is still with him: Gorgeous George. Maybe the others discovered what Elizabeth knew all along: A ladies man, Savage isn't.



THE THIN LINE BETWEEN OUTRAGEOUS AND TASTELESS

One of the most shocking images of 1999 was The Undertaker and his Ministry trying to hang Big Bossman after Undertaker beat him at WrestleMania XV. Fortunately, Bossman suffered no serious injuries.

IN MEMORIAM

Shohei "Giant" Baba	Johnny Eagles	Yuel Lovett
Pedro Bonales	Owen Hart	Gorilla Monsoon
Brady Boone	Junzo Hasegawa	Sam Muchnick
Jonathan Boyd	Brian Hildebrand	Boyd Pierce
El Cavernario	Emiko Kado	The Renegade
Brazo Cibernetico	Ann Laverne	Rick Rude
Diceman	Jos LeDuc	Yoshino Sato
Dan Curtis	Paul Lloyd	Sergio Villa

2000 SHOULD BE THEIR YEAR

Evan Karagias

Bobcat

Shannon Moore

Christopher Daniels

Steve Bradley

PWI 99 ACHIEVEMENT

The waiting is over. All your votes have been counted. On the following pages, we present your choices for the PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED Achievement '99 Awards!

ON THIS VERY page last year, we told you that the wrestling action in 1999 should be just as hot and exciting as it was in 1998.

Boy, were we right.

As popular as wrestling became in 1998, it enjoyed an even larger following this past year. On cable and network TV, the sport of kings moved even more into the mainstream. And none of this could have been accomplished without the wrestlers that *PWI* readers have recognized in the following section.

The 1999 rookie class was, in a word, eclectic. It featured two WWF owners, one of whom finished on top in the voting, and another who took the second runner-up spot. Shane McMahon may not have been destined to be a wrestler, but that doesn't take away from his surprising ring prowess. He was good enough to win Rookie of the Year honors. His dad is no slouch, either.

Hulk Hogan returned to the yellow and red attire in 1999 and to the fans' good graces as well. His return to fan favoritism was subtle at first, but soon he was fighting the hated Ric Flair for the honor of WCW. He returned to his status as a hero and earned 1999's Inspirational Wrestler of the Year Award.

Jerry Lynn may not have been a big name in this business early in his career, but he has been working hard to get noticed for the last 10 years. This year, the talented wrestler became a little better. So much so that *PWI* readers voted him Most Improved Wrestler of the Year. Lynn was a breakout star in 1999. Expect even greater things from him in the next few years.

Eddy Guerrero's career was in jeopardy after a New Year's Eve automobile accident. His injuries were severe, yet Eddy returned stronger than ever. Our readers took notice and deemed his return worthy of the 1999 Comeback of the Year.

1999 could be referred to as the Year of the Puppies in the WWF. The canine references were everywhere, especially when Debra was in front of the cameras. She guided two WWF stars to titles and even picked up one of her own, the women's championship. Now she's 1999's Manager of the Year.

Second verse same as the first. The new year did not quell the hatred between Vince McMahon and Steve Austin. Their feud became more violent and bloody and earned a second consecutive award for Feud of the Year. Currently, they are unlikely and uncomfortable allies, but don't be surprised if they're enemies again sometime in 2000.

The Rock says ... The Rock says ... The Rock says he's 1999's Most Popular Wrestler. Just his appearance under the famous TitanTron is enough to bring fans to their feet, chanting his name. They follow along with his catch-phrases and cheer every Rock bottom and people's elbow.

DDP earned his designation as 1999's Most Hated Wrestler by returning to his rulebreaking roots. A growing disdain for the fans and an expanding ego only made DDP more unbearable, especially after he became WCW World champ. Once a conquering hero, he is now a despicable, sadistic rulebreaker.

How many chair shots does it take to get to the center of Mankind's head? The Rock tried to find out during his Match of the Year with him at the Royal Rumble. The Rock never received his answer, but did capture the World belt by *supposedly* making Mankind say, "I quit!"

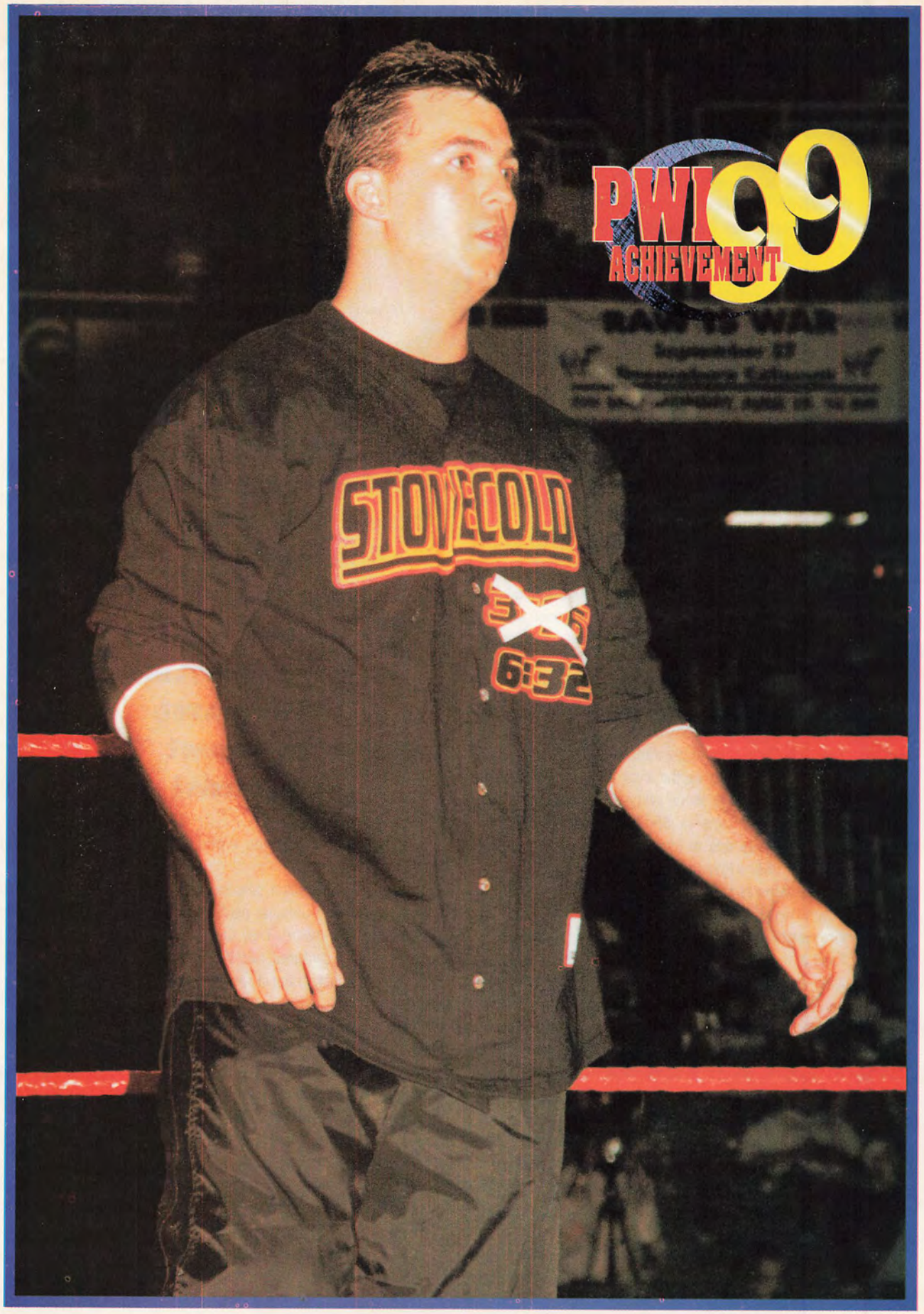
X-Pac and Kane never seemed destined to be allies, let alone partners. But their unusual pairing earned them this year's Tag Team of the Year Award. They forged a friendship that was strong for a while and captured two WWF World tag team titles. Their reigns ended quickly, but it took their friendship a little longer to implode.

Steve Austin was determined to return to the top of the WWF no matter what Vince McMahon said or did. He matched his 1998 success by winning two more WWF World titles, battling Vinnie Mac, and securing another Wrestler of the Year Award. With or without the WWF title in his possession, "The Rattlesnake" continues to rule.

And finally, we honor the late Owen Hart with our Editors' Award. His death was certainly the saddest story of the year.

As a new millennium looms and wrestling enjoys greater popularity, the wrestlers honored over the past year clearly represent the best of the past year, decade, and maybe even century. Many of them will likely rule in the year 2000 and beyond.

But for now, let's take a look back and pay tribute to these superstars.


PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT
STONE COLD
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ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

SHANE McMAHON
29,882 votes

NO DOUBT ABOUT it—Shane McMahon *is* Vince's son.

Like his dad, Shane often leads with his mouth. That mouth is big, and it sometimes gets him into big trouble. He boasts. He swaggers. And then—if need be—he wrestles.

Boy, can he wrestle. For a man who wasn't expected to show us anything at all in terms of wrestling skill, he's very impressive. He showed so much skill that *PWI* readers made him their choice for Rookie of the Year by a large margin.

Shane won the WWF European title from X-Pac under less-than-honorable circumstances in February. It was, however, considered a foregone conclusion that the DX star would recapture the strap at WrestleMania XV. Experts felt that given the opportunity in a one-on-one confrontation, X-Pac would wipe the arena floor with the McMahon progeny.

Those experts were wrong.

McMahon wrestled a strong match (some considered it the best on the card) and performed high-risk maneuvers that even a lot of seasoned veterans would never attempt. He put his body on the line to retain his title and to prove an important point.

"Shane knew he had to back up his words with action," said Gerald Brisco. "He knew he had to go in there and put everything on the line. It was about more than just winning. He had to keep up with a very talented wrestler in X-Pac."

After "Triple-H" turned against X-Pac, Shane got the pin. He had shockingly retained the title with an assist. Not only did he hold on to the European belt, but he temporarily retired it as well. He decided that there was no one more worthy than him to hold the gold.

But Shane's career as a wrestler wasn't over … and he continued to impress. When he got himself into a feud with Test, he had to prove himself in the ring yet again. Determined to put an end to his sister's romantic involvement with the rising WWF star, Shane challenged Test at SummerSlam in a match carrying a stipulation that said if McMahon won, the Test-Stephanie relationship had to end.

Test had the advantage in size, experience, and just about every other category. Again, though, Shane proved he had the ability to back up all the bravado. He brawled with Test. He leaped off the top turnbuckle onto a ringside table in an effort to cripple Test. This time, Shane did not walk out the victor, but he gained more respect.

Shrewd corporate executive or risk-taking grappler? It's safe to say that the businessman was all business in the ring.

RUNNERS-UP

EVAN KARAGIAS
15,209 votes

First runner-up: Breaking free from the WCW preliminary ranks is not easy. But Karagias has lived up to his name by showing great courage. Early in his WCW stint, he lost far more often than he won. However, he found his niche in the cruiserweight division and has picked up a few key wins in recent months. Will he finally make it to the big dance and challenge the champion in 2000?

VINCE McMAHON
14,987 votes

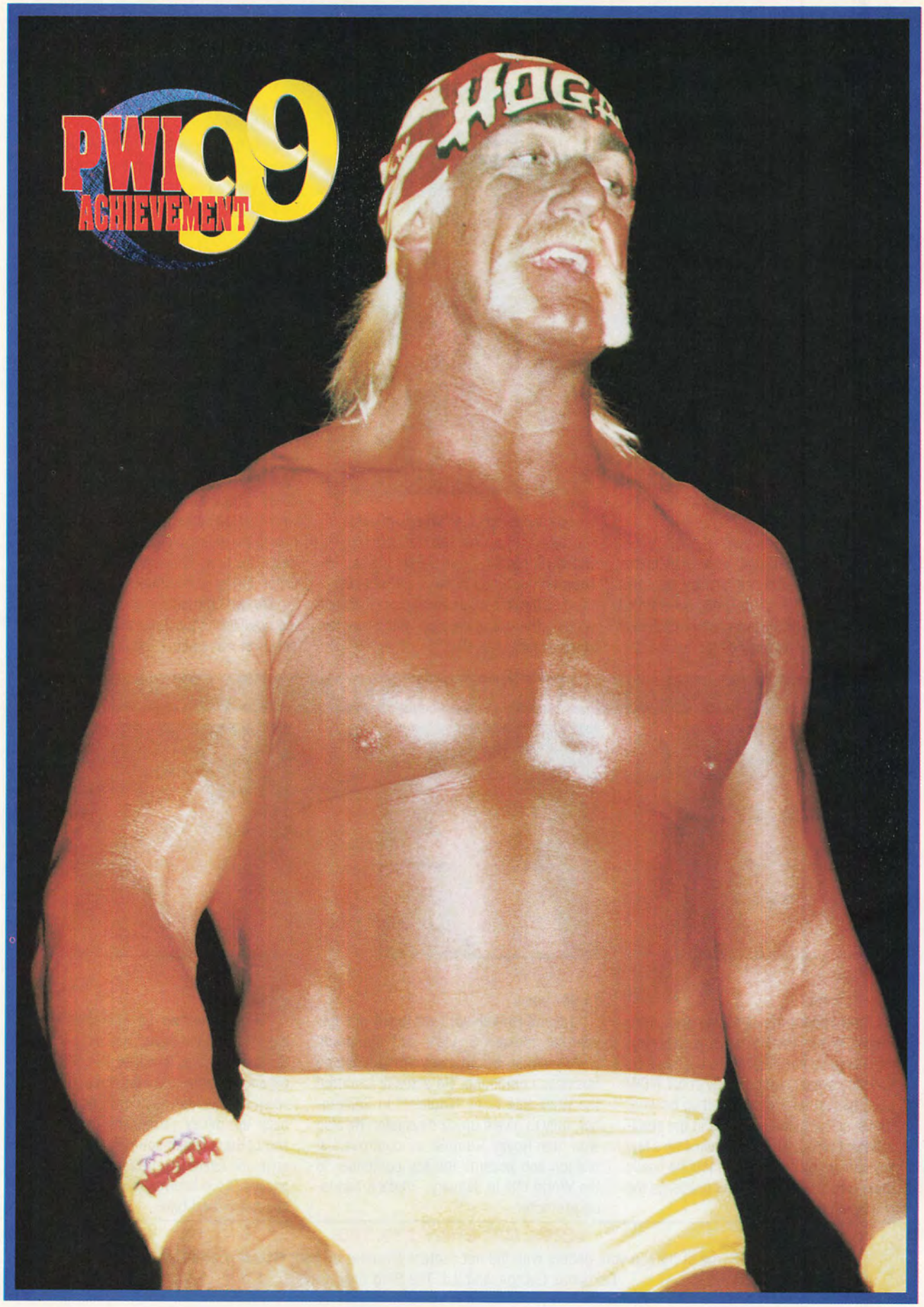
Second runner-up: Ever heard of a 54-year-old rookie? Shane's dad did pretty well for a man whom many thought had no business competing. He actually captured the WWF title from "Triple-H" in September, only to give it up six days later. He also won the Royal Rumble in controversial fashion and became the top contender to the World title in January. *That's* a hands-on promoter.

LASH LeROUX
5,468 votes

Third runner-up: Like Karagias before him, "The Ragin' Cajun" had quite a hill to climb in WCW as a rookie. The difference between LeRoux and a lot of others is that when he was knocked down, he got right back up. WCW promoters took notice, and LeRoux began competing as a cruiserweight. Eventually he earned a title shot against Disco Inferno at Halloween Havoc and nearly beat him.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (9,790)

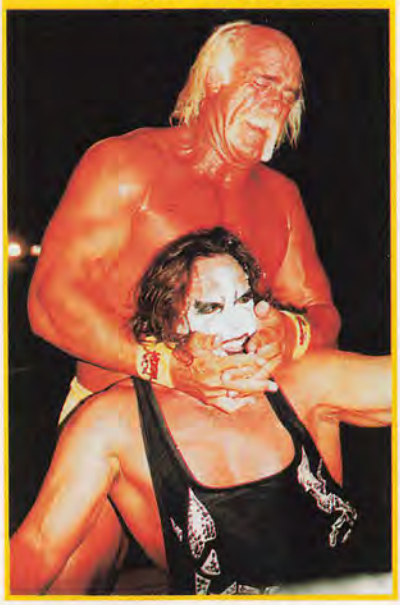
Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: David Flair, Gorgeous George, and J.J. The Ring Crew Guy.


PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT
HOGAN

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

HULK HOGAN

29,388 votes



AND WE ALL thought he had reached the point of no return. Hollywood Hogan was a hated man with few allies and even fewer friends. Could he ever recapture the magic that was "Hulkamania"? Could he ever return to the red and yellow of *Hulk* Hogan? That's what we wondered at this time last year.

Both questions were answered with a resounding "yes." And his return has earned him *PWI's* Inspirational Wrestler of the Year Award.

Hulk Hogan was tired of hearing the boos and was sincere about wanting to do the right thing for a change. At first, the change was subtle. Still clad in black and white, the unshaven Hogan started to battle WCW villains like Ric Flair, who was on a power trip as WCW president/World champion.

Hogan seemed to want to commit to a full-fledged return to the yellow and red and all that those colors represented. So he took a drastic step, in honor of his son and the fans who were returning to his side. He redonned those "Hulkamania" colors.

"To hear those 'Hulkamaniacs' going crazy for the 'Hulkster' was pure heaven, brother," said Hogan. "They can make all the negatives turn into positives. They really have."

Hogan was once again defending the WCW World title with honor. He vanquished Randy Savage. He fended off and retired (temporarily) Kevin Nash. When Lex Luger was questioning his character, Hogan took issue with The Total Package. He felt that Luger was exerting undue influence on Sting in an attempt to sabotage the relationship he had rebuilt with WCW's franchise player.

But it was Sting who turned out to have the questionable character. Instead of using his experience and skills, Sting used his baseball bat to attack Hogan and steal back the World title at Fall Brawl.

"I know Hulk Hogan made mistakes in the past," said Bill Callan of Tampa, Florida. "But I think most people were willing to forgive and forget. He proved that his character was solid. I guess we can't say the same for Sting."

Will Hogan be able to fit in with the new power structure in WCW, or will his frustration lead to a return to rulebreaking on his part? No matter what his future holds, the past year represented a dramatic turnaround that won't soon be forgotten.

RUNNERS-UP

BRET HART

19,419 votes

First runner-up: The infamous Survivor Series '97 incident and the frustration he felt after his career stagnated in WCW could have forced the "Hitman" out of wrestling. But when his brother Owen died, many felt that Bret's career was over. But he came back and even paid tribute to Owen in a classic match with Chris Benoit. Hart is now more determined than ever to win his first WCW World title.

X-PAC

11,644 votes

Second runner-up: The WWF doesn't have much use for a light heavyweight or cruiserweight division, but that doesn't concern X-Pac much. He'd just as soon throw his 212-pound body in the path of a 300-pounder as someone his own size anyway. X-Pac rarely takes a backward step in the ring, and that courage has not gone unnoticed by the fans, who like him in spite of his quirky personality.

HACKSAW DUGGAN

6,033 votes

Third runner-up: Cancer could have ended the *life* of Jim Duggan, and it certainly looked as if his career was over. Somehow, though, after hearing him speak about it, you got the impression that if anyone could win this battle, it would be Hacksaw. Duggan survived his illness by having his cancerous kidney removed—and then he returned to the ring. Sounds like a great movie plot, but this is as real as it gets.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (8,340)

Some of the vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Steve Austin, Buff Bagwell, Chyna, Spike Dudley, Fabulous Moolah, Ric Flair, Eddy Guerrero, The Hardy Boyz, Harlem Heat, Mankind, Rey Misterio Jr., Atsushi Onita, and Raven.

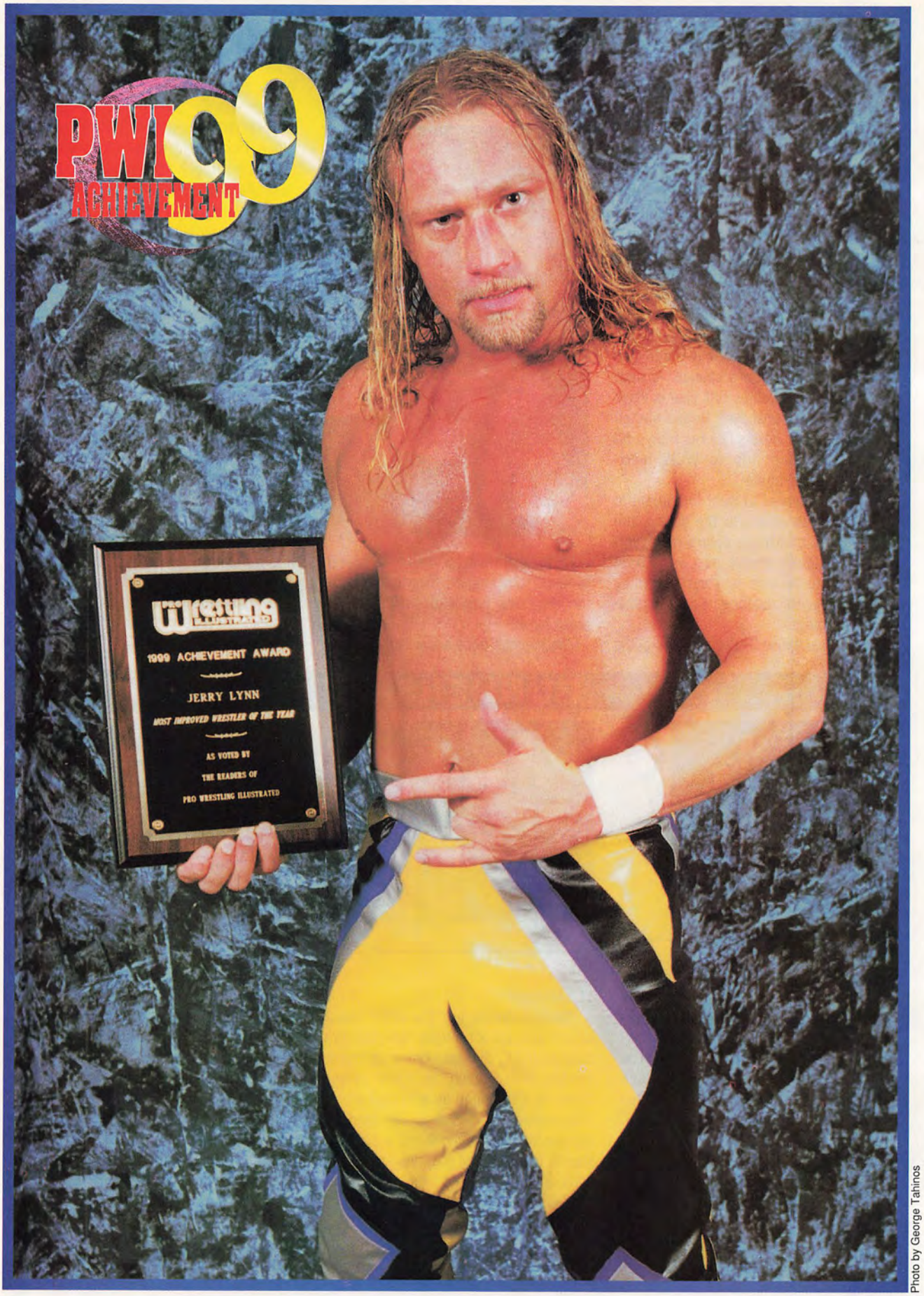


Photo by George Tahinos

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

JERRY LYNN
22,351 votes

AFTER 10 YEARS, Jerry Lynn is finally getting his due.

He has gone from independent promotions to Japan. He has gone from masked WCW wrestler to ECW preliminary wrestler. He has gone from ECW preliminary wrestler to being the "New...", well, the "New Rob Van Dam."

Jerry Lynn's performances in the ring have put him on the same level as "Mr. PPV." They have, in fact, put him on a level with other main event stars in ECW. His emergence over the past year and his vastly improved skills (as well as his win-loss record) have earned him the respect of ECW fans everywhere.

"Jerry Lynn is sort of quiet and unassuming," said Tony Brooks of Boise, Idaho. "But when he gets in the ring, he is anything but subdued. I've never seen a guy who has more Match of the Year candidates."

Rob Van Dam has held the TV title since April 4, 1998, but no one wrestler has given him more anxious moments than Lynn. Lynn has come within an eyelash of defeating the long-time title-holder in match after match. Even though he has not succeeded in his goal, many still peg him as the man who will eventually unseat RVD.

Lynn had more on his plate than just the series of matches with the TV champ, too. He feuded with The Impact Players, Justin Credible and Lance Storm, and, ironically, he has teamed with Van Dam to battle the dastardly duo. A feud with Yoshihiro Tajiri has been fun to watch as well.

"The respect and support of the fans mean more to me than any belt ever could," said Lynn. "I'd like to think that my skills have been honed over the years, but if they feel that I've improved even more this year, I consider that an honor."

With ECW now featured on The Nashville Network, the promotion and its wrestlers have a chance to shine on a bigger and brighter stage. Lynn is one who has done that. He does not have a catch phrase or sexy valet. He just gets in the ring and puts on a show that leaves his fans and peers in awe of his talents.

A Most Improved accolade might just be the start for Lynn. After a decade in the wrestling industry, his show is just beginning.

RUNNERS-UP

THE HARDY BOYZ
20,275 votes

First runner-up: Disregard the different monikers and just marvel at the talents of Matt and Jeff. They were considered the next Freebirds under Michael Hayes. Gangrel guided them briefly as The New Brood. Now they are under the tutelage of Terri Runnels. No matter who leads them, the high-flying, risk-taking Hardys have shown they are one of the world's top tag teams.

BOB HOLLY
11,994 votes

Second runner-up: Anyone remember Sparky Plugg ... or that he once held the WWF tag title with X-Pac (then The 1-2-3 Kid)? The transformation of Bob Holly to Hardcore Holly has been startling. He stunned everyone by not just competing in the WWF's hardcore ranks, but winning the title. Along with cousin Crash, he won the WWF tag title again. Now no one overlooks this "super heavyweight."

KANYON
8,312 votes

Third runner-up: Kanyon has proven that losing a mask is not such a bad thing. As Mortis, he foundered in WCW. When he pulled off the hood, he started to emerge as a star. As a member of The Triad, he got his first taste of WCW gold. As tag champs, he, DDP, and Bam Bam Bigelow redefined the three-man tandem like no other team since The Freebirds. And he earned a reputation as a true innovator inside the ring.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (11,706)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Bradshaw, Christian & Edge, The Godfather, Billy Gunn, Kane, Billy Kidman, Lenny Lane, Lance Storm, Yoshihiro Tajiri, and Val Venis.

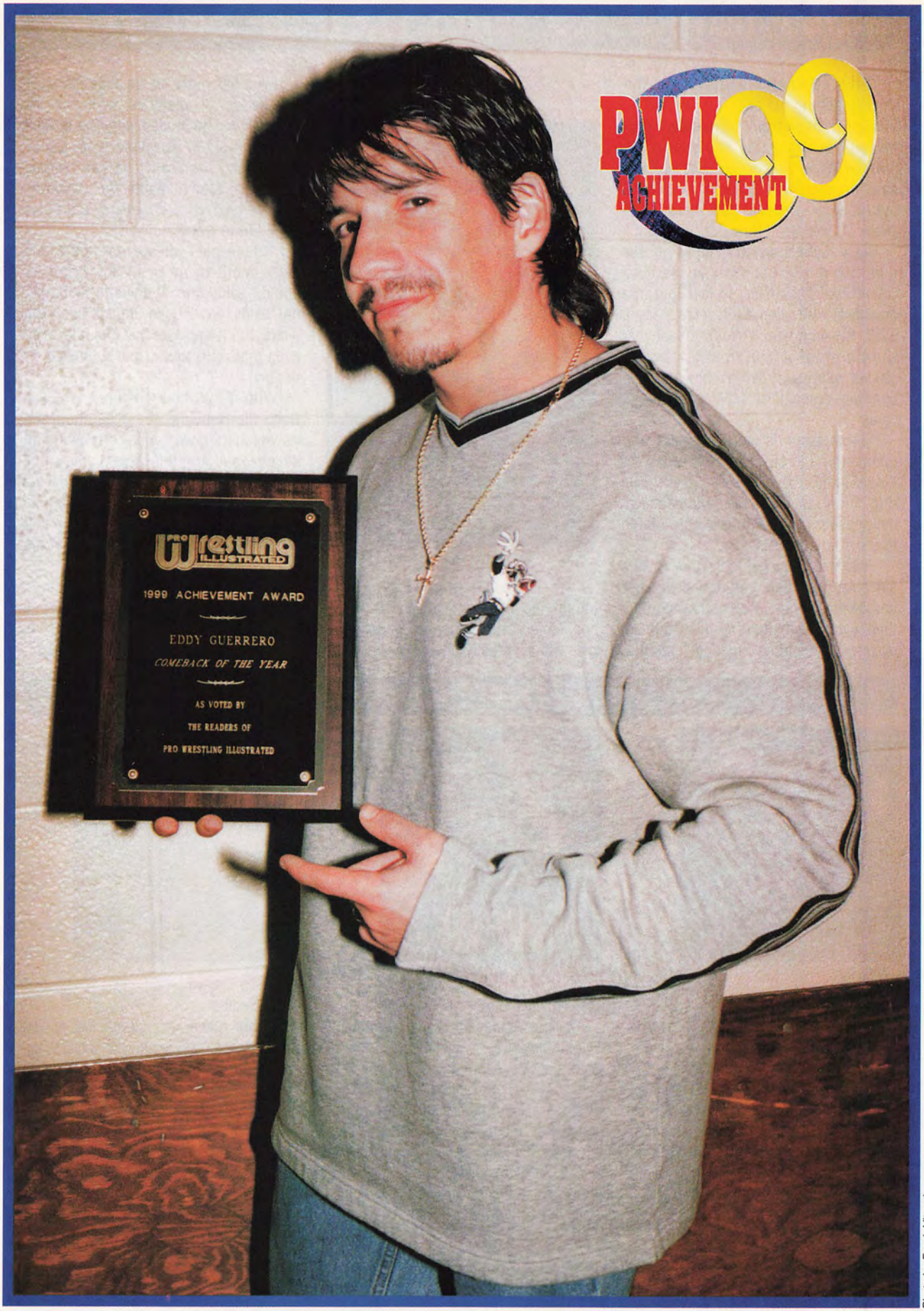


Photo by Frank Vitucci

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

EDDY GUERRERO

23,612 votes

FOR MANY IN the wrestling business, 1999 was a year filled with tragedy. For Eddy Guerrero, it was a year of triumph.

A New Year's Eve automobile accident could have ended his career. Actually, it could have ended his *life.* Eddy Guerrero not only survived the accident, but he eventually came back to the ring and looked like he never left. As a result, he can boast about being the winner of *PWI's* Comeback of the Year Award for 1999.

After the accident, there was some doubt as to whether Guerrero would ever come back. The extent of his injuries—a broken hip, punctured liver, and severed calf muscle—was quite serious. Had we seen the last of the former WCW U.S. and cruiserweight champ? Many said yes. Guerrero said no. Six months later, he made his Monday night return, but not as a rulebreaking wrestler, the status that he held when he left WCW.

"To see Eddy back on TV was both a pleasure and a relief," said Kent Henry of Ames, Iowa. "So many wrestlers might have been wary of coming back so soon, but he didn't look like he had any ring rust when he got back."

At first, Guerrero was humbled by what happened and the entire experience of recovery and rehabilitation. His return to *Nitro* saw him don a headset alongside Tony Schiavone and Bobby Heenan. He thanked the fans for their support and then-WCW President Eric Bischoff for standing by him. But that is where the niceties ended for Eddy Guerrero.

When he returned to the ring, we saw the old Eddy. He scowled at the fans, broke rules, and showed little regard for his opposition. He even embarked on a brief quest to embarrass the masked Luchadores in WCW. No one doubts that he maintained a certain level of gratitude for the opportunity to wrestle again, but Guerrero chose not to display that emotion any longer.

"I am who I am, and I can't change that," said Guerrero. "Things happen in life, and everyone deals with setbacks in their own way. No one is more glad that I'm back in the ring than me. I'm very fortunate."

Currently, Guerrero is part of a clique called The Filthy Animals, along with Konnan, Billy Kidman, and Rey Misterio, Jr. He has had his influence on all three men, who were recently fan favorites. Now the group is more interested in sneak-attacks and thievery.

No matter what types of tactics he employs, however, everyone is glad to see Eddy back.

RUNNERS-UP

BUFF BAGWELL

21,411 votes

First runner-up: Even though he was a tad deceptive while recovering from a serious neck injury—he attacked several WCW fan favorites from his wheelchair—Buff Bagwell is now back at 100 percent … and he's enjoying a lot of fan support. The "stuff" is cockier than ever. Bagwell could have given up and gone into a different profession, but he chose to fight his way back. He deserves credit for that.

CURT HENNIG

9,662 votes

Second runner-up: Curt Hennig as a country music-loving redneck? That's right. He reinvented himself in the oddest of ways and gave his career the jump start that it so desperately needed. Hennig and his good friends The West Texas Rednecks were hilarious to watch as they feuded with Master P, who didn't hang around WCW long, and his No Limit Soldiers, and sang such classics as "Rap Is Crap."

MICHAEL HAYES

6,299 votes

Third runner-up: Rest in peace, Dok Hendrix. He decided that there were a few more matches left in Michael Hayes. So he ventured to Power Pro Wrestling and captured the heavyweight title. Back in the WWF, Hayes stepped through the ropes alongside his new charges, The Hardy Boyz, and managed them to the WWF tag title. He reminded us he can still mix it up "Freebird style" every now and then.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (14,302)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Fabulous Moolah, Ric Flair, The Godfather, The New Age Outlaws, Randy Savage, Rick Steiner, Vader, and Sid Vicious.

PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

DEBRA
24,759 votes

THERE ARE TWO lessons to be learned from the rise in prominence of Debra.

First, even though she looks like a very sweet woman, you don't want to cross her.

Second, never underestimate puppy power.

Debra proved again in '99 that she is more than a pretty face and a buxom figure. She not only guided Jeff Jarrett to three Intercontinental title wins and one European title triumph, but she became the preeminent manager in the WWF. She also led Jarrett and the late Owen Hart to a victory for the WWF World tag team title.

If that was not enough gold for Debra to handle, she also had a brief and unlikely stint as WWF women's champion.

That complete package has earned Debra *PWI* Manager of the Year honors for 1999.

"Everyone should know by now I'm a lot more than a woman who just stands at ringside looking beautiful," said Debra. "I've tried to be an inspiration during the matches and a strategist when we're preparing for competition. There's more to me than just the puppies."

More, indeed. Fans took notice of Debra's abilities *and* her looks in 1999. They rained cheers down upon the blonde bombshell as she accompanied Jarrett to ringside. "Double-J" took notice of this, and his anger started to boil. Even though the two had a great deal of success as a duo, tension between them began to build around mid-year.

When Jarrett started targeting women, Debra looked on with disgust. At first, she stayed out of the fray, but eventually tried in vain to stop him from assaulting the fairer sex. It was to no avail. When Jarrett turned his anger toward her and placed her in a figure-four leglock, the relationship was over.

"I think Debra gained a whole lot of respect when she turned away from Jarrett," said Nat Hunter of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. "Standing by him while he breaks the rules is one thing. That's part of the game. Attacking women is not."

Now that Jarrett is in WCW, the chances for a reunion with Debra are unlikely. Where she goes from here is anyone's guess. Wrestlers should take note of her track record and line up for her services. There are many fringe benefits to having her as a manager.

A closeup view of the puppies would be one of them.

RUNNERS-UP

JIMMY HART
15,084 votes

First runner-up: "The Mouth Of The South" made a big effort to return to the managerial ranks in '99. However, he didn't recruit main-eventers. He studied WCW mid-carders with potential. Men like Hugh Morrus, Jerry Flynn, The Barbarian, and Brian Knobs now compose his new First Family. They're not among the elite in WCW yet, but Morrus and Knobs are contending for the WCW tag title.

BILL ALFONSO
14,865 votes

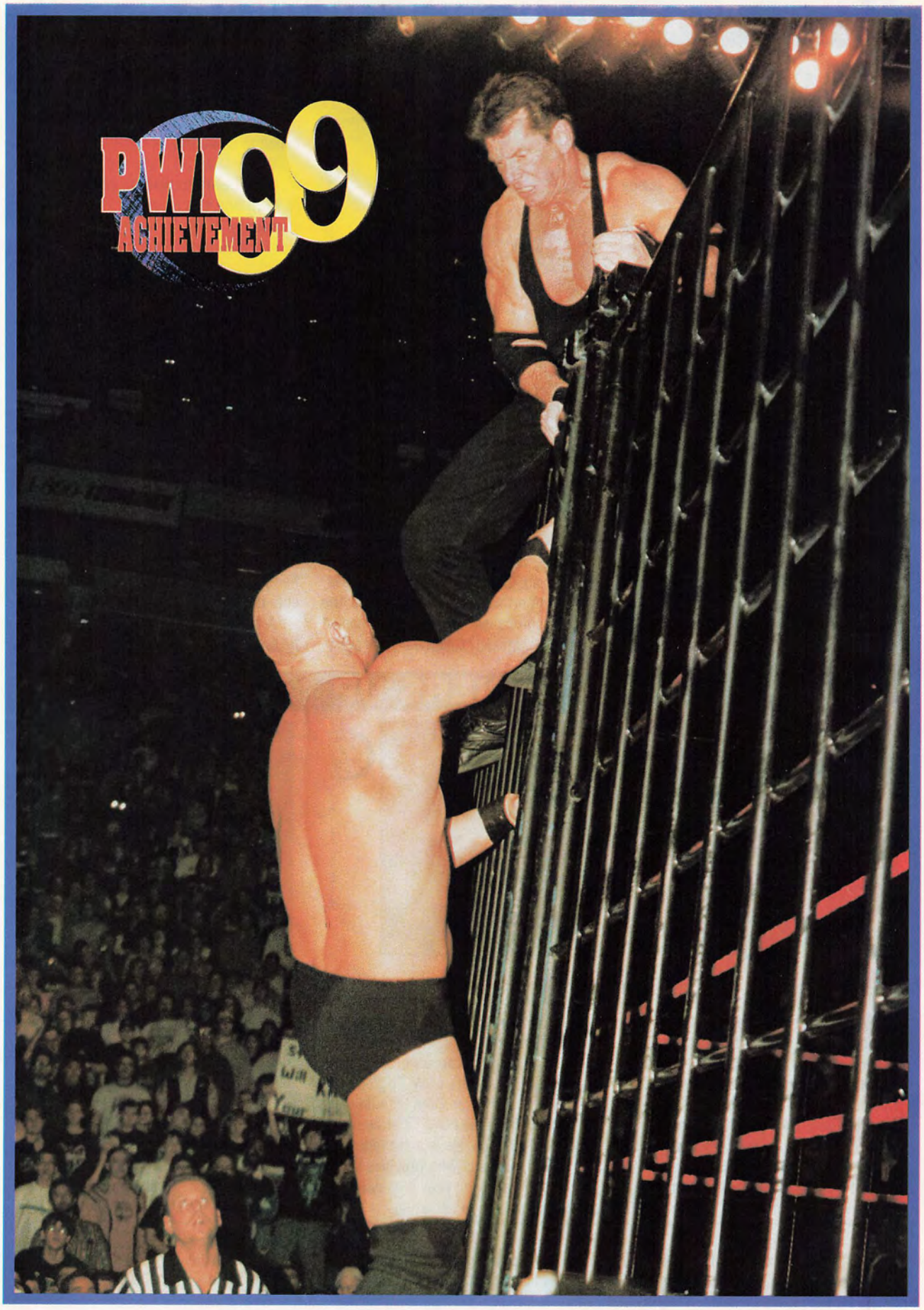
Second runner-up: Our winner in 1997 remained in the upper echelon of managers by guiding the careers of Sabu and a man who has held the ECW TV title since April 1998. Rob Van Dam continues to hold tightly on to the ECW TV strap in part because of Alfonso. He is a seasoned veteran of the business who provides valued guidance to Van Dam. Now if he could just get RVD and Sabu to get along.

PAUL BEARER
7,678 votes

Third runner-up: Last year's winner had a rollercoaster of a year. His Undertaker briefly held the WWF World title. 'Taker's Ministry of Darkness also became The Corporate Ministry and nearly took over the WWF. But for all those good times, Bearer suffered setbacks. He was a constant punching bag for WWF fan favorites and an easy sacrificial lamb of the Ministry at times.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (12,001)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Capt. Lou Albano, Arn Anderson, Dawn Marie, Francine, Joel Gertner, Michael Hayes, Sonny Ono, Terri Runnels, and Tammy Lynn Sytch.


PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT

FEUD OF THE YEAR

VINCE McMAHON vs. STEVE AUSTIN

24,245 votes

WHILE THEIR BATTLES did not last through the whole year (as they did in 1998), the hatred between these two men was just as strong as it was the previous year. That is why, for the second year in a row, *PWI* readers voted the war between Vince McMahon and Steve Austin the Feud of the Year.

There is peace between the two now, but when 1999 dawned, McMahon was *still* determined to drive Steve Austin out of the WWF. He had successfully kept the WWF title away from him for a few months, but that was not good enough for ol' Vinnie Mac.

They battled at the Royal Rumble, where Vince McMahon won the battle royal and briefly became the top contender to the WWF World championship. At the following pay-per-view, St. Valentine's Day Massacre, they competed in a one-on-one steel cage bout with top contendership on the line. Austin bloodied McMahon and won the match, but that did not stop Vince.

A few months later, a plot was hatched in which Vince turned good and allied himself with Austin against The Undertaker, Shane McMahon, and their Corporate Ministry. When the elder McMahon was revealed as the Ministry's "Greater Power," his feud with Austin was reborn.

"When I saw McMahon's head pop out from under that hood, I wanted to break the [jerk] in two," said Austin. "I doubt I'll ever fully trust him again."

The resumption of their feud revolved around control of the WWF. Vince and Shane battled Linda and Stephanie McMahon, with Austin siding with the ladies. They made him the CEO of the promotion, which Austin had to defend at the King of the Ring against the McMahon men. Shane and Vince won the confrontation and regained control of their federation.

While peace currently exists between Austin and McMahon, the embers that remain from their fiery war have not been extinguished. They smolder, waiting to be reignited.

"I don't think Austin and McMahon will ever be able to get along," said Terry Hivola of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. "Their hatred runs so deep. How can they forget the past?"

Good question. Just because they're not exchanging blows does not mean that Austin and McMahon are drinking buddies. Any small flare-up could cause this feud to start up for a third time. Could the WWF's "Rattlesnake" and the owner do battle yet again?

Oh, hell yeah!

RUNNERS-UP

TRIPLE H vs. THE ROCK

18,752 votes

First runner-up: There has never—and we mean *never*—been friendship between the two of them. They feuded in the past, but the stakes were higher in '99. "Triple-H" held the WWF World title. The Rock wanted it back. "Triple-H" would do anything to hold on to the title. The Rock would do anything to win it. Chairs, sledgehammers, and other weaponry were used in their wars this year.

JERRY LYNN vs. ROB VAN DAM

11,943 votes

Second runner-up: Can anyone stop Rob Van Dam and break his stranglehold on the ECW TV title? Many feel Jerry Lynn will be the man to upend the long-time champ. He has yet to do that, though he is still considered a threat to RVD. Their bouts over the belt were among the best of the year … and each is still intent on proving that he is the better all-around wrestler.

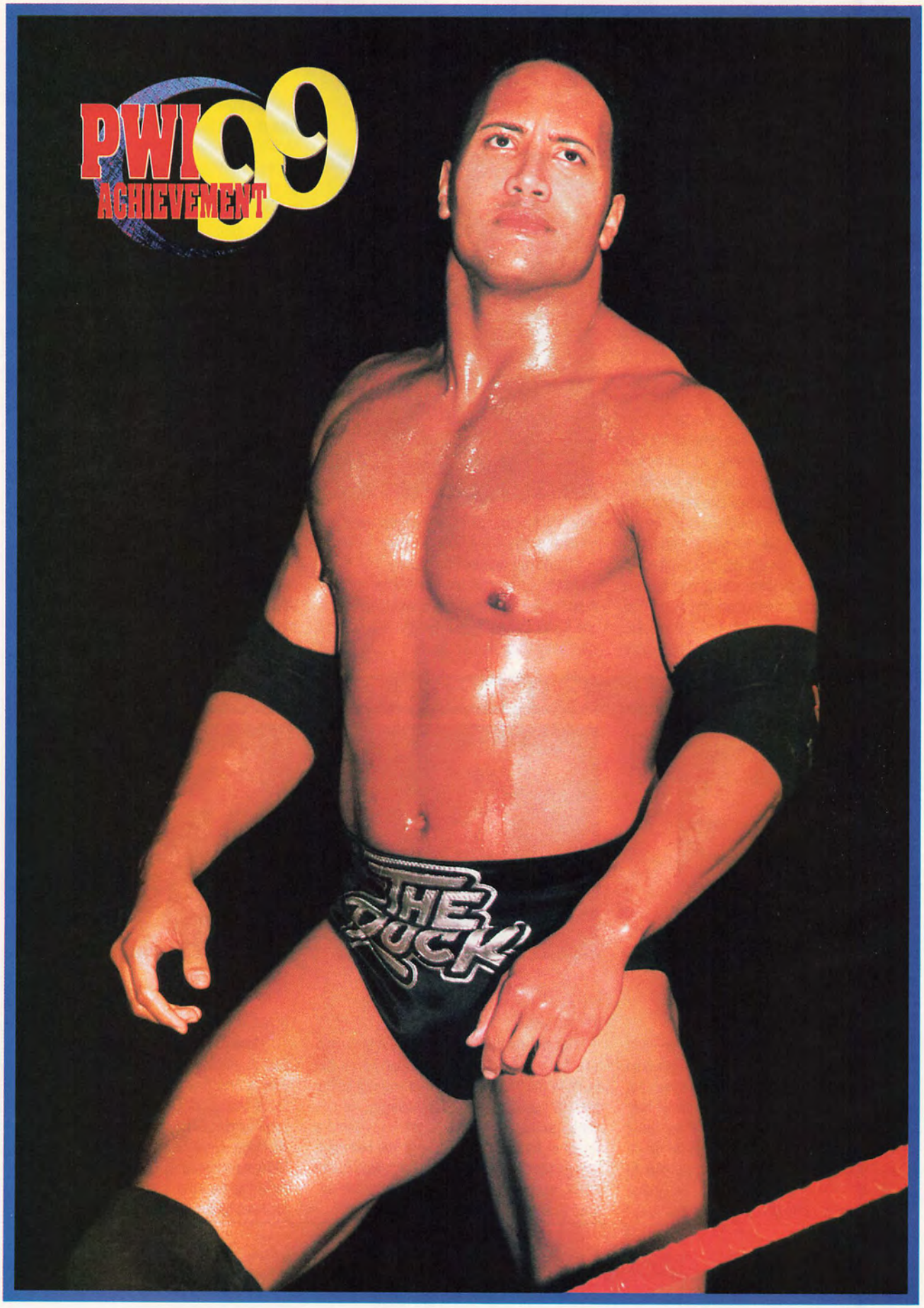
RIC FLAIR vs. HULK HOGAN

6,235 votes

Third runner-up: Some feuds never die. Flair vs. Hogan is one of them. Once considered a dream match between a WWF and WCW champion, their battles are now almost commonplace. Hogan still represents rock 'n' wrestling, while Flair is still associated with NWA tradition. They started their feud with Hogan as the villain and Flair as the hero, but the roles have since changed several times.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (14,730)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Chyna vs. Jeff Jarrett, Steve Corino vs. Taz, Bill Goldberg vs. Sid Vicious, Billy Gunn vs. Jesse James, Hulk Hogan vs. Kevin Nash, Bob Holly vs. Al Snow, Mankind vs. The Rock, Shane McMahon vs. Test, Shane McMahon vs. X-Pac, No Limit Soldiers vs. West Texas Rednecks, and Dallas Page vs. Scott Steiner.


PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT
THE ROCK

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

THE ROCK
24,678 votes

IT'S SAFE TO say that wrestling fans liked the cooking that they smelled this year.

The Rock's ascension to incredibly popular megastar was fascinating to watch. He entered the WWF as a smiling hero. Fans hated him and regularly chanted, "Rocky sucks!" at him. When he turned bad, they grew to love him for his catchphrases and people's elbow. Now that he is a full-fledged fan favorite, the crowds simply cannot get enough of "The Great One."

It is not surprising at all that *PWI* readers recognized him as the Most Popular Wrestler of 1999.

"Finally, The Rock has been recognized by the millions ... and millions of The Rock's fans," said the former WWF champ. "This just shows beyond the shadow of a doubt that The Rock is not just the most popular wrestler, but the most electrifying man in sports entertainment today."

His popularity is at least equal to that of "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin, who came in a close second. The sound of his entrance music is enough to bring fans to their feet. The cock of his eyebrow brings down the house. And when he speaks, the people are happy to "sing along" with him.

The test of The Rock's popularity came when he faced popular stars like Austin and Mankind toward the end of the year. His support remains solid. The man can seemingly do no wrong. The Rock is now a regular participant in main events in the WWF and has three WWF World titles to show for his efforts.

"The Rock has got it all—looks, attitude, and talent," said Suzanne Hoppe of Madison, Wisconsin. "If he's on the card, you know that you'll get your money's worth, both when he wrestles and when he talks."

The Rock's popularity transcends the wrestling ring. He has already become a commercial pitch man for Chef Boyardee, and other offers are coming in as well. With his movie star good looks and incredible charisma, his future looks very, very bright.

In the meantime, The Rock is focused on his wrestling career and winning another WWF World title. The line of contenders is long, and The Rock wants to be in front. He may have to continue to battle popular stars like Austin and Mankind, but chances are the fans will be cheering every step, every eyebrow raise, and every people's elbow, as well as singing along to every word.

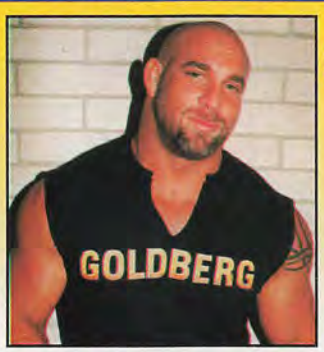
Rocky Maivia was interesting, but The Rock is a superstar.

Maybe it *does* matter what your name is.

RUNNERS-UP

STEVE AUSTIN
21,711 votes

First runner-up: The voting was close, but "Stone-Cold" will have to settle for the silver this year. That isn't to say that Austin is any less popular than he was a year ago. The fans' appetite for anything Austin is still insatiable. In 1999, he grabbed two more WWF World titles before being injured by "Triple-H." Will he sacrifice his fan base to win another?



BILL GOLDBERG
15,554 votes

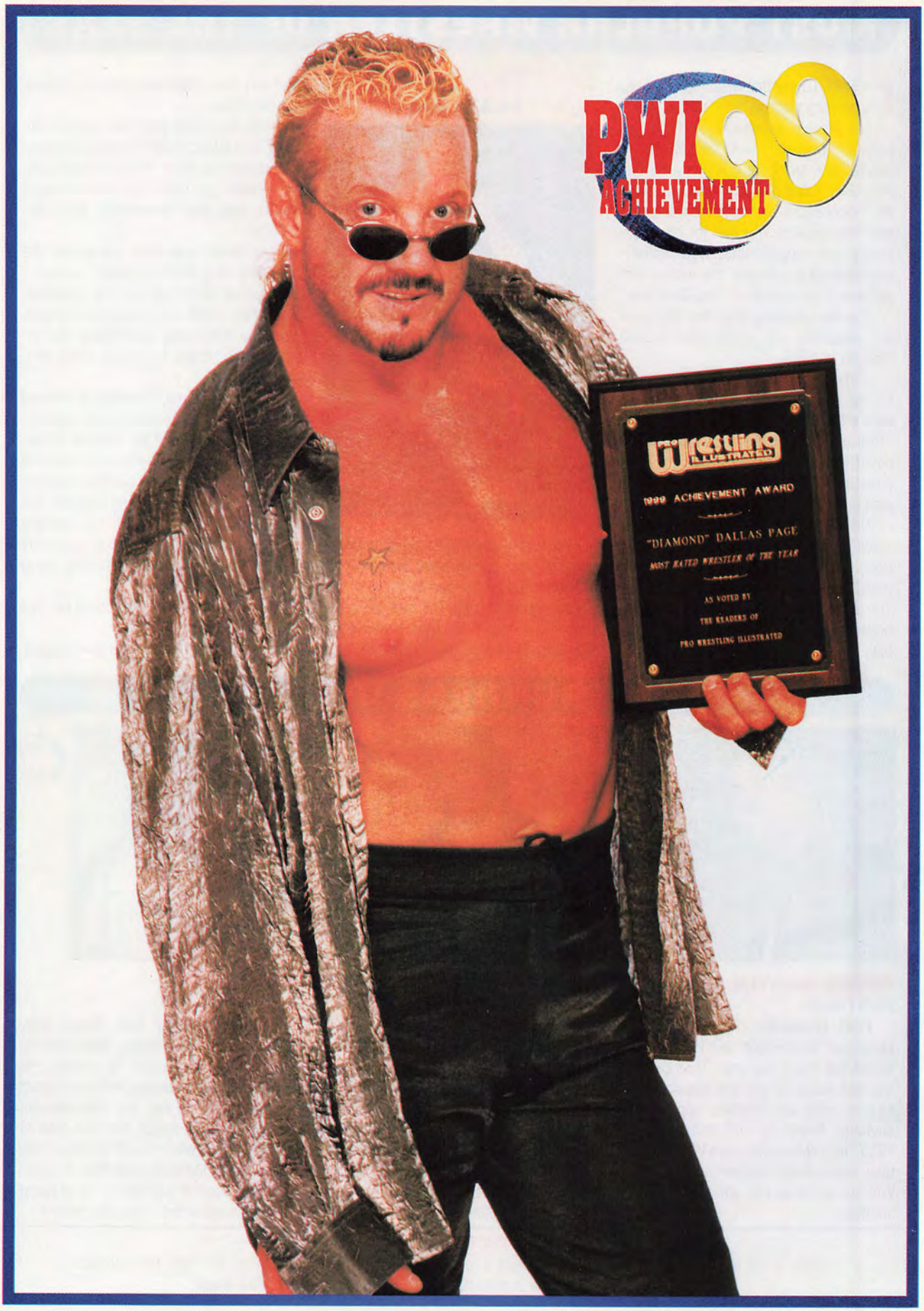
Second runner-up: He may not have had the monster year he had in 1998, but Goldberg remained the most popular wrestler in WCW. Even when he was absent from WCW action for several months, fans kept chanting his name, hoping he would return and resume his domination. Goldberg did come back and did destroy most of his competition, including the very dangerous Sid Vicious.

MANKIND
12,750 votes

Third runner-up: Mrs. Foley's baby boy became an unlikely WWF champ three times in the last 12 months. He proved it's not necessary to have a ripped physique to be a star. His common man approach has brought him the type of popularity of which most wrestlers can only dream. Mankind gives hope to aspiring wrestlers. If you have a lot of talent and even more heart, you *can* make it.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (4,529)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Chris Benoit, Ric Flair, The Godfather, Bret Hart, Hulk Hogan, Jesse James, Kane, Taz, Rob Van Dam, and Paul Wight.


PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT
Wrestling Illustrated
1999 ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
"DIAMOND" DALLAS PAGE
MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR
AS VOTED BY
THE READERS OF
PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED

MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

DALLAS PAGE

26,599 votes

DDP DELIVERED THE goods in 1999 all right, but they were not the goods that the fans wanted. He went from beloved hero to despicable villain and was rewarded here accordingly.

"There was a day when I thought that these people mattered, that they could help me," said Page. "But I've learned that whether I'm cheered or booed, I can still make an impact in this business. Like I've always said, they'll never forget me."

His victory for the WCW World title at Spring Stampede solidified DDP's rule-breaking status. He attacked the knee of the popular (again) Hulk Hogan and went on to win the belt in a four-way match. When he got his hands on the title, Page became more egotistical and brash than ever. He wanted nothing to do with his loyal followers. After winning the belt again, he was only concerned with his legacy as a "two-time, two-time, two-time" World champion.

He fended off challenges using numerous illegal tactics before finally falling to Sting the first time and Kevin Nash the second time. The fact that his two reigns as World champ lasted a total of just four weeks did nothing to change DDP's opinion of himself.

From there, Page fortified his forces by recruiting Bam Bam Bigelow and Kanyon to form The Triad. The three of them made an immediate impact by not only winning the WCW World tag team title, but by invoking the unofficial "Freebird rule" that said any two of the three could defend the belts at any time.

"DDP was just hiding behind those two goons," said Todd Nelsen of New Ulm, Minnesota. "He couldn't get the job done on his own or hold on to a title without help. He used to be the kind of guy who wanted to do things on his own. It just shows you how low he has sunk."

Back in singles action, Page is becoming more sadistic day by day. Kimberly has returned to his side, and the two of them are partners in crime and in DDP's continued quest to return to the top of WCW.

His wrestling career has gone full circle. He started out as a cocky ring villain and seems content to make that image his legacy. Once considered the hardest working man in wrestling, DDP will now do anything and take any shortcut to win a match.

We still hear his *"Bang!"* but, sadly, no one is cheering it.

RUNNERS-UP

HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY

20,109 votes

First runner-up: "Triple-H" has evolved from a Connecticut snob to a sadistic brute. On his way to two WWF title wins, he has tried to build his championship reputation by taking wrestlers out of the sport. Not content with using wrestling moves, Helmsley prefers chairs and sledgehammers. We suspect that most of the fans have two words for him.

THE UNDERTAKER

14,744 votes

Second runner-up: He has become the personification of pure evil. No one is spared from his wrath. Whether it's a blood relative or simply a close ally, 'Taker shows absolutely no compassion. His formation of The Corporate Ministry was but one example of how low he was willing to sink in his efforts to take over the WWF. We doubt he'll ever hear cheers again.

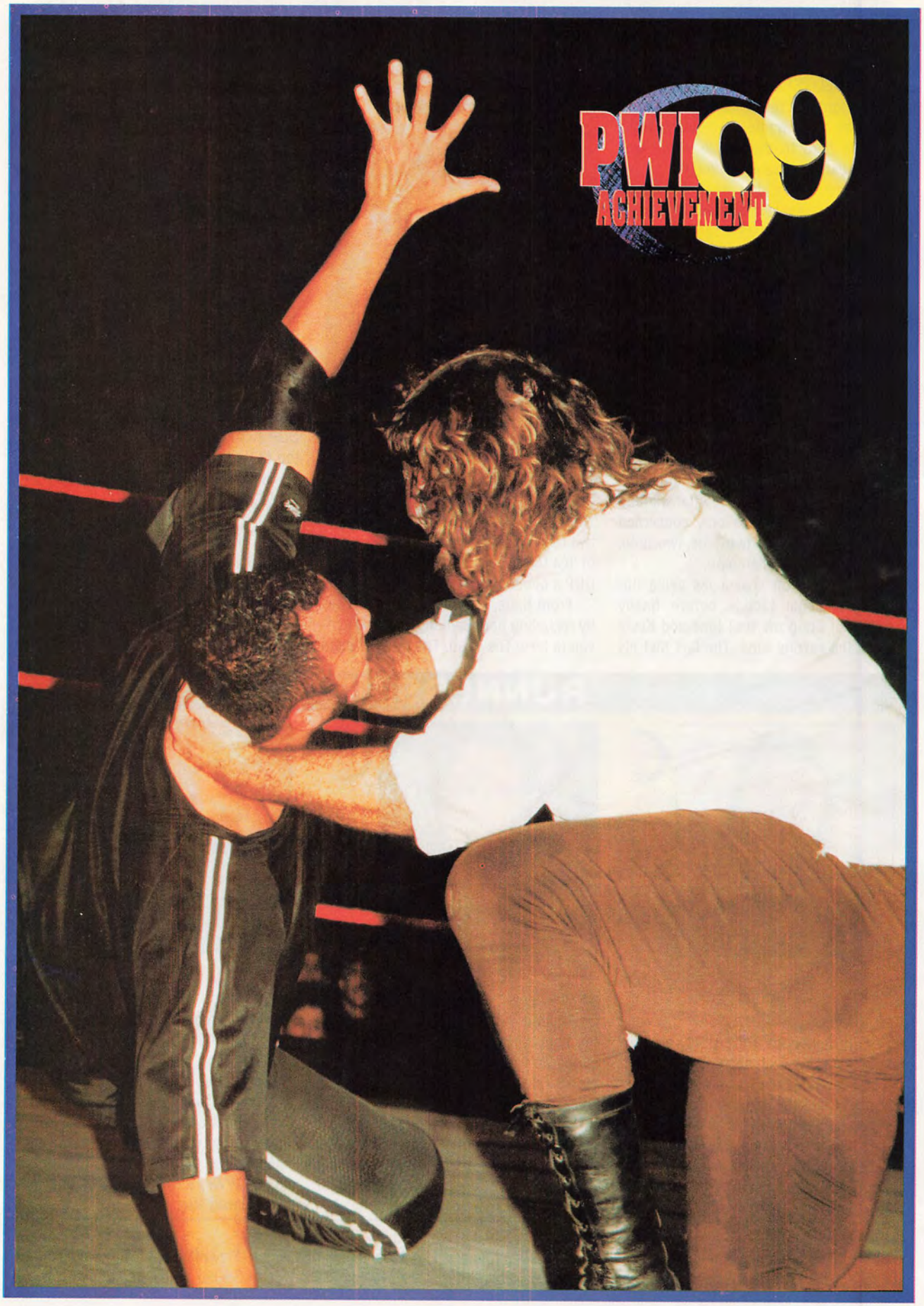
THE DUDLEY BOYZ

5,206 votes

Third runner-up: This brotherly tandem had anything but love for their foes and the fans. While in ECW, they became famous for their vulgar prematch insults of fans. They would instigate brawls that came close to turning into riots. In the ring, their behavior wasn't much better. And when they moved on to the WWF, they continued launching unprovoked attacks.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (7,732)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Big Bossman, Steve Corino, Justin Credible, David Flair, Jeff Jarrett, Shane McMahon, Vince McMahon, Ernest Miller, Randy Savage, Scott Steiner, Sting, and Sid Vicious.


PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT

MATCH OF THE YEAR

THE ROCK vs. MANKIND

20,585 votes

THE PREMISE WAS simple. Whichever man could get the other to say, "I quit" first got to walk out with the WWF World title. Mankind was defending against The Rock, who at the time was the number-one star in Vince McMahon's Corporation. Both men boasted that those two words were not in their vocabularies. It was a wild, violent affair that *PWI* readers deemed Match of the Year.

The bout was the no-holds-barred main event of the Royal Rumble. Mankind and Rock took the match outside the ring, onto the entryway, and all over the arena. The Rock was determined to strip away from Mankind the WWF World title. Mankind represented everything he hated. McMahon's Corporation was solidly behind his efforts.

The ringside microphone, bell, and a ladder all played a part in the bout, but no item played a larger role than a chair. Mankind felt that chair against his head more than 10 times, with each shot from The Rock more vicious than the previous one.

"After the first few shots, I'm not sure I felt that much or even remember that much," recalled Mankind. "All I know is that I was not going to give in, no matter how much pain I was going through."

"The Rock gave Mankind everything he had on that night, and that jabroni would not fall down," recalled Rock. "No matter what The Rock did, no matter how hard The Rock hit him, The Rock could not get those two words out of him."

The Rock won the bout after the words, "I quit" were heard over the sound system. But were they Mankind's words? Yes. Did he say them during the match? Rock and the rest of The Corporation claimed he did, but it was later discovered the McMahons and their cronies had taped Mankind uttering those words and played the recording at the appropriate time.

"Those words never left his mouth that night," said Blair Connally of Dallas, Texas. "I knew right away it was from a prerecorded interview when Mankind happened to put those two words together. The match was a complete ripoff for him."

The Rock left Anaheim, California, with the WWF World title around his waist, while Mankind's hopes of headlining WrestleMania as WWF champion were temporarily dashed. He was able to regain the belt a few days later, but it would not be the end of his feud with The Rock.

RUNNERS-UP

ROB VAN DAM vs. JERRY LYNN

15,959 votes

First runner-up: Determined to wrest the TV title from Van Dam, Lynn employed every move in his arsenal as he tried to upend the reigning champ in a bout that lasted 30 minutes. Van Dam did the same as the two wowed the crowd in Poughkeepsie, New York. In the end, it was a frog splash from the champion that did in the challenger, but Lynn could hardly be considered a loser.

STEVE AUSTIN vs. VINCE McMAHON

15,124 votes

Second runner-up: At stake was the number-one contender spot for the WWF title. Austin wanted it so he could regain his title. McMahon just wanted to keep it away from Austin. They brawled inside a steel cage as "Stone-Cold" bloodied his boss. The highlight of the bout saw McMahon fall from the outside of the cage on to a table. In the end, Big Show tried to interfere, but Austin still won.

THE ROCK vs. STEVE AUSTIN

10,186 votes

Third runner-up: Austin had waited months for a shot at the WWF title. The Rock was defending the belt and the honor of The Corporation at WrestleMania. Vince McMahon tried everything he could think of to prevent Austin from winning, but in the end, it was classic Austin. Stunner and a pin to The Rock for the belt. Then, for good measure, he stunned McMahon as the crowd cheered him on.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (13,100)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: January 16: Shane Douglas vs. Taz; February 14: The Rock vs. Mankind; March 15: Billy Kidman vs. Rey Misterio Jr.; March 28: Shane McMahon vs. X-Pac; April 25: Steve Austin vs. The Rock; July 18: Justin Credible & Lance Storm vs. Jerry Lynn & Rob Van Dam; September 19: Mike Awesome vs. Taz vs. Masato Tanaka; October 17: Edge and Christian vs. The Hardy Boyz; October 24: Bill Goldberg vs. Sid Vicious.

PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

KANE & X-PAC
20,482 votes

THEY WERE AN unlikely pairing from the start. The super heavyweight and the light heavyweight. One was stoic, while the other was one of the most emotional stars in the WWF. Yet Kane and X-Pac jelled to become not only close friends, but WWF World tag team champions. Now the odd couple has added *PWI* Tag Team of the Year honors to the list of their accomplishments—despite the fact that they can no longer stand each other.

"I guess I saw something in Kane that no one else saw, not even his own brother," said X-Pac. "I knew that once we got together, we could go to the top of the WWF as a team. I had to carry him most of the time, but we still made a great team."

They won their first of two WWF tag championships by defeating Owen Hart and Jeff Jarrett on March 30, and they held the belts for nearly two months before being upended by The Acolytes. But the loss of a championship was the least of their problems then.

At the time, The Undertaker was trying to convince Kane that he should be with family, not a selfish friend like X-Pac. 'Taker forced Kane to make a choice. At first, Kane went with him, but when he saw what his half-brother had done to his friend, he attacked 'Taker and resumed his partnership with X-Pac.

"I think that was the point where their relationship was solidified," said Tony Zadra of Silver Springs, Maryland. "They had trust for each other. It was an equal partnership."

One more tag team title would come their way on August 9, but the strain on their friendship soon started to show. X-Pac was weary of Kane bailing him out of two-on-one attacks. X-Pac wanted to prove he could mix it up with the major players in the WWF without assistance.

While there were arguments between the two men, the disputes seemed resolvable. Eventually, though, X-Pac decided that old partnerships were more important than his current one. After helping to re-form DX, X-Pac betrayed his friend and ended their relationship.

Perhaps their alliance was doomed from the start, but no one can deny their success and effectiveness as a team.

RUNNERS-UP

THE HARDY BOYZ
18,812 votes

First runners-up: They went from tag team afterthoughts in the WWF to the very top as champions. They have had some difficulty establishing their identity, but it hasn't prevented them from impressing fans and outright frightening opponents with their breakneck style. They must be pretty good if Michael Hayes, Gangrel, and Terri Runnels have all had interest in managing them.

HARLEM HEAT
11,240 votes

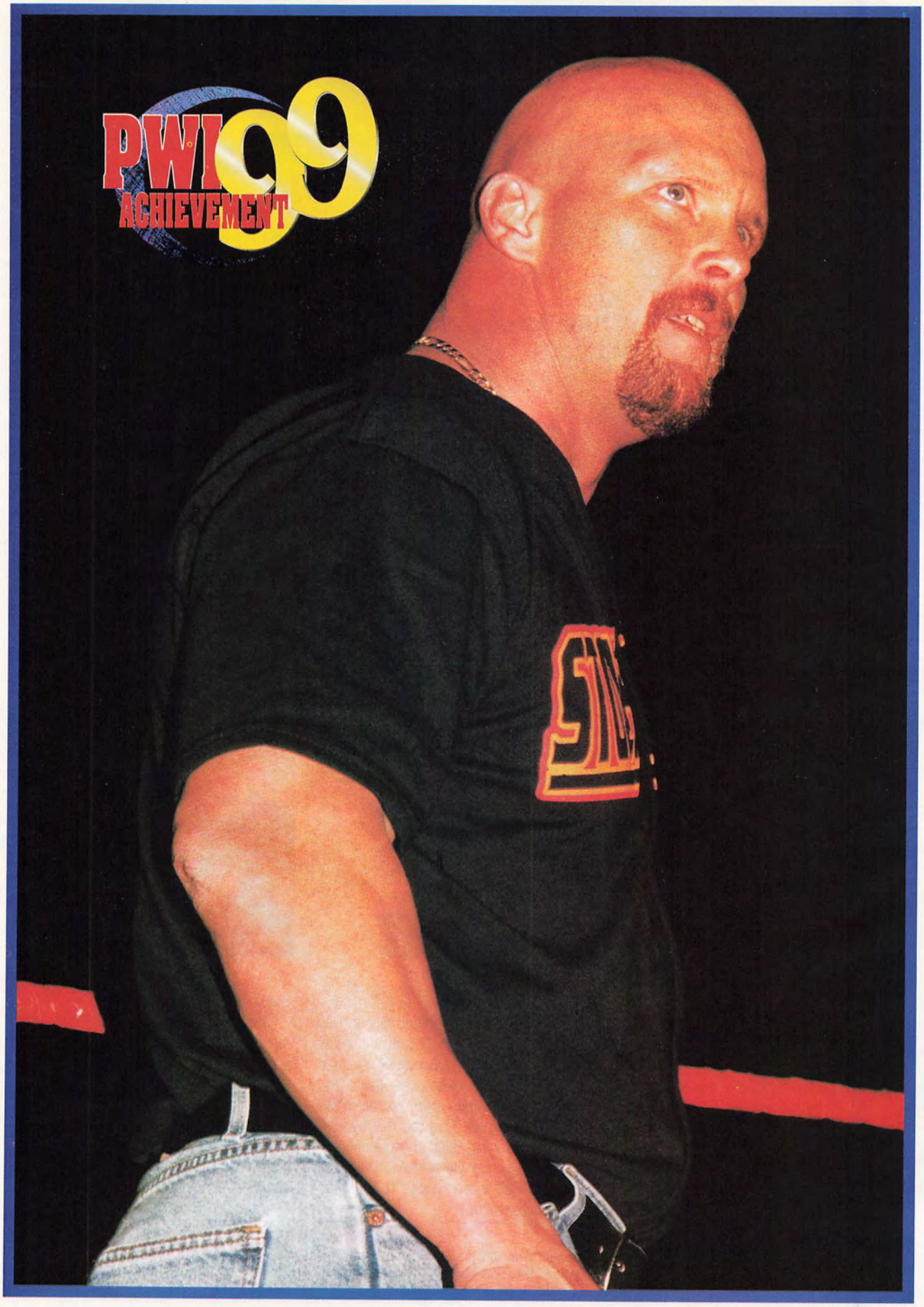
Second runners-up: When Stevie Ray broke away from the NWO black and white, a reunion with brother Booker T seemed inevitable. Harlem Heat was back and ready to restake their claim to the WCW World tag team title. They did that by winning three more tag titles at three consecutive WCW pay-per-views: Road Wild, Fall Brawl, and Halloween Havoc. The reunion was a successful one.

THE DUDLEY BOYZ
8,391 votes

Third runners-up: The Dudleys spent most of the year tearing up ECW's tag team scene and ruling as champions. When they weren't opening up opponents, they were tearing into ringside fans, hurling insults and inciting near-riots. In search of more challenges, the boys left Sign Guy and manager Joel Gertner behind during the summer and ventured to the WWF, where they targeted The Acolytes.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (16,102)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: The Acolytes, Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko, Christian & Edge, Justin Credible & Lance Storm, Tommy Dreamer & Raven, Spike Dudley & Mahoney, Owen Hart & Jeff Jarrett, Bob & Crash Holly, Billy Kidman & Rey Misterio Jr., Mankind & The Rock, Mitsuharu Misawa & Yoshinari Ogawa, and The Triad.


PWI 99
ACHIEVEMENT

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

STEVE AUSTIN
21,008 votes

ANOTHER YEAR OF feuding with Vince McMahon. Another year of picking up a couple of WWF World championships. Another year in which *PWI* readers voted him Wrestler of the Year.

But this time, it was not so easy.

The obstacles that Steve Austin faced this year were seemingly insurmountable. In the voting in this category, Austin did not dominate as he did in 1998. That had little to do with Austin's abilities and accomplishments and more to do with the spotlight he shares in the WWF.

"Stone-Cold" did win two more WWF World titles, one from The Rock, and his fourth overall from The Undertaker. His battles with Vince McMahon and his Corporation continued through the summer. And he even enjoyed a brief stint as the CEO of the federation. But the McMahons made him work harder than ever for his success.

"It's been a hell of a year—there's no doubt about that," said Austin. "'Stone-Cold' Steve Austin has never wanted it easy. Hell, I've gone out and earned everything I've got. This year ain't been no different. Vince, The Undertaker, 'Triple-H,' and all those other silly [jerks] have tried to stop me, but I'm still here."

Austin had to fight, not just once, but twice to earn his title shot at WrestleMania against The Rock. He was eliminated by Vince McMahon at the Royal Rumble, then had to beat McMahon at St. Valentine's Day Massacre to ensure that he'd be in the main event. He went on to make the most of his opportunity by upending The Rock for the belt.

"*Hulk Hogan* winning the title was once so closely associated with WrestleMania," said Jeremy Boyd of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. "Now it wouldn't be a WrestleMania without Steve Austin kicking butt in the main event."

Winning the WWF title did not bring to an end his feud with McMahon and company. "Stone-Cold" continued battling various Corporation/Corporate Ministry members and briefly lost the WWF belt to The Undertaker. But SummerSlam represented a huge point for Austin.

He lost the belt to Mankind and was attacked afterward by "Triple-H." Doctors forced him to rest and rehabilitate his injured knee. An inactive Austin became an angrier Austin, and he returned to the WWF with an even harder edge.

Is "Stone-Cold" on the verge of turning bad? If Austin has proven anything to his fans, it is to expect the unexpected.

RUNNERS-UP

THE ROCK
20,225 votes

First runner-up: The emergence of The Rock was one of the major stories of 1999. First, he became a main-eventer. Second, he became every bit as popular as Austin. Not many wrestlers in their 20s have had the success Rock has had. He has already won three WWF titles, and we suspect that The Rock is just getting warmed up. We also suspect we've only begun to smell what he's cookin'.

STING
13,089 votes

Second runner-up: Both his WCW World title victories were both notable and controversial. He defeated DDP on April 26, but lost it 90 minutes later. Then he beat Hulk Hogan at Fall Brawl, but in the process, surprised the wrestling world by turning bad. After wrestling as a beloved fan favorite for almost his entire career, Sting is now a rulebreaker—and a very dangerous one at that.

TAZ
8,344 votes

Third runner-up: While the WCW and WWF world titles were passed around throughout the year, Taz provided ECW with some stability. His reign as World champ began in January, when he beat Shane Douglas. He held the strap until September, when he lost it in a three-way against Mike Awesome, who became champ, and Masato Tanaka. He hopes to enjoy the same kind of success in the WWF.

VOTES FOR OTHERS (12,033)

Some of the top vote-getters who did not capture a runner-up spot include: Ric Flair, Bill Goldberg, Hulk Hogan, Mankind, Mitsuharu Misawa, Keiji Muto, Kevin Nash, Dallas Page, The Undertaker, Vader, and Rob Van Dam.

EDITORS' AWARD

OWEN HART

BLACK SUNDAY. THAT term would be the most accurate way to describe May 23, 1999. The WWF was hosting its Over the Edge pay-per-view. Owen Hart, donning the cloak of The Blue Blazer, was scheduled to face The Godfather for the Intercontinental title. He was to make a grand entrance befitting a superhero.

That's where everything went terribly and tragically wrong.

Something happened while Owen Hart was dangling over the ring on the catwalk high above Kemper Arena in Kansas City. Somehow he ended up plummeting to the ring below. Paramedics rushed to the ring to assist him, but there wasn't much they could do. Later on the broadcast, Jim Ross delivered the news. As a result of the catastrophic injuries suffered in the fall, Owen Hart had died.

So many of those who follow the sport grieved and shed tears over the loss of the 34-year-old wrestler. Many tributes were paid to Owen from his friends and his older brother Bret.

Owen Hart was a man who always made time for his family, friends, and fans. He was a prankster who loved to play jokes on his fellow wrestlers. Very few were spared the wrath of Owen the practical joker, but all the jokes he played were done so in fun. Owen loved his family, his friends, and his fans.

He was born on May 7, 1965, the youngest child of Stu and Helen Hart. Like his brothers before him, Owen became a wrestler. Trained by his father and brothers, he embarked on a pro career in 1986, and captured his first major title on January 19, 1987, beating Makhan Singh for the Stampede North American heavyweight title. He was voted Rookie of the Year by readers of *PWI* for 1987 in a strong field that included Bossman, Shane Douglas, and Doug Furnas.

His first chance to shine under the WWF spotlight came that same year, when he joined Bret in the federation. At the time, he reluctantly donned a mask and went by the name Blue Blazer. While the Blazer was not a major success, he still impressed fans with his mat wrestling and high-flying abilities. Later, Hart ventured away from the WWF to make a name (his own name) for himself.

After spending some time in Japan (where he won the IWGP junior heavyweight title) and a brief stint in WCW, Hart returned to the WWF in 1992. He formed The New Foundation with brother-in-law Jim Neidhart, and High Energy with Koko B. Ware. Those tandems did not have much success, and thus Owen was not able to rise above mid-card status. He was having difficulty achieving the success enjoyed by Bret, who had become a singles superstar and a World champion. Owen's angst was just beginning.

Owen's frustration boiled over when he turned against his brother at the 1994 Royal Rumble. That led to the WrestleMania X encounter that became a defining moment in his career. He cleanly defeated his older brother in the opening bout and went on to win the 1994 King of the Ring two months later.

By that time he was a scowling rulebreaker, though it seemed to be a necessary change for his career. His new edge and aggressive style brought him three WWF World tag team titles, two Intercontinental titles, a European title, and the most important achievement of all: an in-ring reunion with Bret.

The two were the cornerstones of the new Hart Foundation with The British Bulldog and Brian Pillman. When Bret was screwed out of the WWF title at the 1997 Survivor Series and bolted to WCW, Owen would find himself all alone. Bulldog and Neidhart joined Bret in WCW, and Pillman had died several months earlier.

Hart became the sole surviving member of the Foundation. He tried being a fan favorite, but again found rulebreaking more to his liking. He was part of The Nation of Domination and formed a successful team with Jeff Jarrett. The WWF tag team title that they won together would be Owen's last championship.

His fans will miss the opportunity to again witness this wonderfully talented man, but couldn't begin to experience the depth of loss shared by wife, Martha, his children, Oje and Athena, his parents, the rest of his family, and his fellow competitors. For his contributions in a career and life that were both too short, we posthumously honor Owen Hart with the *PWI* Editors' Award for 1999. □

YOUR UNOFFICIAL/OFFICIAL AWARDS FOR 1999

Once again we have asked our readers to create their own awards and name the people most deserving of those awards. It's our annual showcase of our fans' creativity, our way of dubiously honoring those involved with our favorite sport

PWI 99 ACHIEVEMENT

ADA Award For Best Teeth: Gangrel
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

A Flintstones Kid, Only He Ain't Growing: Spike Dudley
—Nick Roosa, trnroosa@aol.com

A Little Scared Of Scissors, Aren't We: Sid Vicious
—Addison Cooper, Cooper17@juno.com

Almost Super Heavyweight Of The Year: Bob Holly *and* Crash Holly
—scewball1@juno.com

Am I Watching The Lifetime Channel?: Test and Stephanie's relationship
—Nick Roosa, trnroosa@aol.com

All Bark And No Bite: British Bulldog
—Jose Hernandez, Dallas, TX

And They Call It Puppy Love: Debra
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

And We Thought *Mick Foley* Had A Personality Problem!: Stevie Richards
—Joshua Rey, Miami, FL

Announcer Of The Year: Bobby Heenan
—Chris Bridges, Winder, GA

Aren't Big Shows Supposed To Be Entertaining?: Paul Wight
—Ken Tuccio, Ansonia, CT

A Sign Of Armageddon: Ric Flair and Hulk Hogan become allies
—Billy Zias, Astoria, NY

Back In The Nest: Raven
—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

Bat Man: Sting
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Best Color Commentator: Cyrus the Virus
—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

Best Comedy Act: The Rock and Mankind
—Todd Friedman, Homerj331@aol.com

Best *Nitro* Of The Year: None
—Todd Friedman, Homerj331@aol.com

Best Revolution Since 1776: Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko, Perry Saturn, and Shane Douglas
—Anthony Capobianco, Pennsauken, NJ

Best Sweater: Prince Albert
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

Best Referee That Money Can Buy: Charles Robinson
—Jon Grossman, Fredrick, MD

Best Thing To Happen To Wrestling: ECW gets on TNN
—Harold Pawlik, Erie, PA

Best Use Of A Gas Mask: Twiggy Ramirez
—CactusB@aol.com

Bet They Feel Stupid For Getting Triple Threat Tattoos: Chris Candido and Bam Bam Bigelow
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

Biggest Ego Since Hulk Hogan: Rena Mero
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH

Bret Hart Of 2000: Billy Kidman
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

PWI 99 ACHIEVEMENT

Deserves To Be World Champ: Chris Benoit
—aeroquiddity@yahoo.com

Bret Hart Wannabe: Danny Doring
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

Bronco Bust(y): Francine
—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

Brotherly Love: Lenny Lane & Lodi
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

Canine Of The Year: Road Dogg
—C.B. & Diane Alderson, Tahlequah, OK

Cheesecake Moment Of The Year: Mae Young in her bra and panties on *Raw*
—Brian Paige, Louisville, KY

Dancing Dynamite: The *Nitro* Girls
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Defection Of The Year: Vince Russo joins WCW
—Brian Polinksky, Pittsburgh, PA

Dentists Were Always Scary, But This Is Ridiculous: Kane
—Addison Cooper, Cooper17@juno.com

Didn't That Die In 1992?: Hulkamania
—Brian Paige, Louisville, KY

Didn't They Perform "He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother"?: The Hollys
—Jim Mancini, Malden, MA

Donates Enough Blood To Get A Whole Box Of Cookies: Mahoney
—Ken Tuccio, Ansonia, CT

Don't Let The Door Hit You On The Way Out: Eric Bischoff
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

Don't Send In The Clowns: Insane Clown Posse
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

Driving A Stake Through The Heart Of The Best Rulebreaker In Wrestling History: Vince McMahon turns fan favorite
—Adam Wilcox, Niagara Falls, Ontario

Dysfunctional Family Entertainment: WWF
—Jim Mitchell, LaPorte, TX

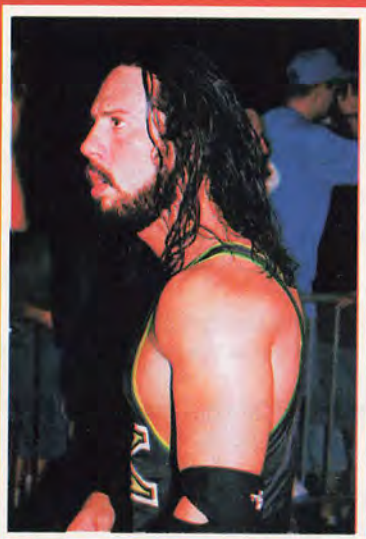
ECW: Check, WWF: Check, WCW: Check, Unemployment Line: Check: Public Enemy
—Steven D. Hammonds, Cunningham, KY

ECW Newcomer Of The Year: Miss Congeniality
—Barry Boudreaux, Houma, LA

Equal Opportunity Annoyer: Jeff Jarrett
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Finally, A Talented Ripoff: NWO Sting
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

For A Guy, She Isn't That Bad: Nicole Bass
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH



Freddie Blassie's Pencil-Bodied Geek Award: X-Pac
—Charles Kuhn, Ardmore, PA

Happy New Beer!: Steve Austin
—Kevin Chadwick, Brooklyn, NY

Forever In Our Hearts: Owen Hart
—Don Trujillo, Vancouver, WA

Forget The Chihuahua Puppies—We Want The Rottweilers: Chyna
—Shane Pearce, LaGrange, GA

From Blackjacks To Boneheads: Barry Windham and Bradshaw
—Joe Anderson, Portland, ME

Game Over: Hunter Hearst Helmsley
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

Garth Brooks Ain't Got Nothin' To Worry About: The West Texas Rednecks
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Getting Oldberg: Gillberg
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

Gives New Meaning To *The Nutcracker Suite*: Chyna's low blow
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

Goldbust: Dustin Runnels
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Great-Grandsons Of The Three Stooges: Mean Street Posse
—C.B. & Diane Alderson, Tahlequah, OK

Heaven Needed A Referee: Brian Hildebrand
—Rita Lundenberg, Brooklyn, NY

He Disappeared Faster Than Yokozuna's First World Title Reign: Master P
—Todd Friedman, Homerj331@aol.com

He Has More Fans Than WCW: Mankind's dozens and dozens
—Luke Robert, Unity, ME

He May Be A Fink, But He's Still Better Than Lillian Garcia: Howard Finkel
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

He's Full Of Something, But It's Not Talent: Chris Jericho
—Anneva Williamson, Silverthorn, CO

He's Still The Stuff: Buff Bagwell
—Steve Cavitt, Carencro, LA

Holier Than Thou: Christopher Daniels
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

He Stands A Better Chance Of Lifting A Train Than Outrunning One: Viscera
—Anneva Williamson, Silverthorn, CO

He Took So Many Chair Shots I Woke Up With A Headache: Mankind
—Damian Maldonado, San Antonio, TX

He Will Never, *Eh-eh-ever,* Get Into The Wrestling Hall Of Fame: Chris Jericho
—aeroquiddity@yahoo.com

Hey, Dorothy, Take Your Red Shoes And Go Back To Oz: Ernest Miller
—Anneva Williamson, Silverthorn, CO

Hint: If You Wear Paint On Your Chest, People Will Look: Rena Mero
—Ken Tuccio, Ansonia, CT

His Clock's Stuck On 4:20: Rob Van Dam
—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

Hooty Who?: Master P
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

Hopefully His Head Will Fall Off With The Next Batch Of Hair: Hulk Hogan
—Mark R. Davis, Springfield, MO

How Much Does A Soul Cost?: Taz, Shane Douglas, The Dudley Boyz, and The Sandman
—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

How The Mighty Have Fallen: Eric Bischoff
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Always Thought That's How Pepper Steak Was Made: The demise of Al Snow's dog, Pepper, at the hands of Big Bossman
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH

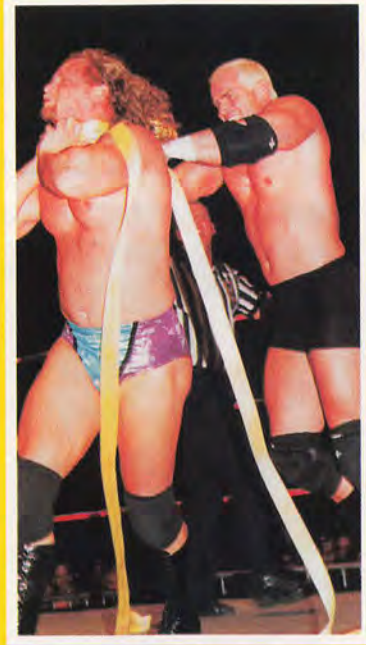
If ECW Loses Any More Talent, He Really Will Be "The Whole F'n Show": Rob Van Dam
—Steven Rossi, Astoria, NY

If He's A Redneck, I'm From West Texas: Curly Bill
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

Imagine Where He Would Have Placed The Crown: Billy Gunn wins the King of the Ring
—JDawg1183@aol.com

I'm Still Waiting For His Head To Fall Off Award: D-Lo Brown
—ckzippy@gte.net

Independent Show Of The Year: Break The Barrier, May 15 at the ECW Arena
—Thomas R. Shaw, Christchurch, New Zealand



If He Passes For Hardcore, I'm A NASCAR Driver: Bob Holly
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

Let's Hope He'll Pierce His Mouth Shut: Prince Albert
—Anneva Williamson, Silverthorn, CO

Independent Wrestler Of The Year: Mike Quackenbush
—Harold Pawlik, Erie, PA

It Doesn't Matter What His Name Is: Michael Buffer calling Bret Hart "Bret Clark"
—Todd Friedman, Homerj331@aol.com

I Think I Snapped My Slim Jim: Randy Savage's various injuries
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH

It's A Shame Success Isn't Hereditary: Scott Putski
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

It's A Shame Talent Isn't Hereditary: David Flair
—Lucas Dickinson, Greenwood, IN

It's Not The Same Without Him Calling Matches: Gordon Solie
—Chris Bridges, Winder, GA

It's Raining Cats And Dogs: Miss Kitty and Debra
—Chris Bailey, South Hill, VA

I've Seen Better Fights On *Jerry Springer:* WWF Backlash
—Spencer Eldredge, Berwick, ME

I Wonder If That German Guy Can Dance: Berlyn
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH

Just Old Enough To Make Main Event Status In WCW: Pat Patterson and Gerald Brisco
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH

Just When You Thought It Was Safe To Go Back To The Ring: Shark Boy
—Nick Roosa, trnroosa@aol.com

PWI 99 ACHIEVEMENT

Most Underrated Man In Wrestling: Billy Kidman
—Ken Tuccio, Ansonia, CT

Living Proof That Dinosaurs Roam The Planet: Mae Young and Hulk Hogan
—Todd Starke, Milford, DE

Living Proof That Vader Has Been Cloned: Big Slam
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Livin' La Vida Loca: Super Crazy
—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

Lost Without His Head: Al Snow
—Richard Aubrey, Tyngsboro, MA

Ma'am, You Are No Chyna: Asya
—C.B. & Diane Alderson, Tahlequah, OK

More Frightening Than Luna Vachon On A Bad Hair Day: Ivory
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH

More Highlights Than ESPN's *SportsCenter*: Rob Van Dam and Sabu
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

More Injuries Than Ahmed Johnson: Ric Flair
—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH

Most Annoying Weasel: Steve Corino
—Billy Zias, Astoria, NY

Most Famous Inbreds Since The Waltons: D-Von and Buh Buh Ray Dudley
—Ed Gurbisz Jr., Tannersville, PA

Most Pleasurable Moment: Sid Vicious power-bombing Eric Bischoff on the July 19 *Nitro*
—Sean Fluharty, Baton Rouge, LA

New Spokesperson For *Abs Of Steel*: Bret Hart
—Steven D. Hammonds, Cunningham, KY

No, I Can't Imagine Why Eric Bischoff's Hair Went Gray: *Raw's* dominance of *Nitro* in 1999
—Adam Wilcox, Niagara Falls, Ontario

No More Mr. Nice Guy: Sting
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Not Humoris To Watch: Hugh Morris
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Not Just A Canadian Legend: Owen Hart
—Wing Armstrong, Houston, TX

Only Tito Santana Could Understand: Konnan
—Wing Armstrong, Houston, TX

Pimpin' Is Easy ... *Wrestlin'* Is Hard: The Godfather
—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

Please Yell "Bite Me" In An Arena Full Of Pit Bulls And Rottweilers: Rick Steiner
—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Promoter Of The Year: Paul Heyman
—Harold Pawlik, Erie, PA

Proof That Rap Destroys Brain Cells: Konnan
—Mark R. Davis, Springfield, MO

Oh My God, He Killed Kenny Shamrock!: Steve Blackman
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

Proof That You Don't Have To Be A Blonde To Be An Airhead: Dawn Marie
—Eric Hyde, DeKalb, IL

Put A Shirt On!: Debra
—Nick Roosa, trnroosa@aol.com

Puts The "Old" In Old School: The Heroes of Wrestling pay-per-view
—Frank Bonner, Columbus, OH

Ric Flair Wannabe: Shane Douglas
—Morgan Gibson, Blountville, TN

Rising Star: Val Venis
—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

Runs A More X-Rated Show Than The Clinton Presidency: Vince McMahon
—Charles Kuhn, Ardmore, PA

Same Package, Different Wrapping: Lex Luger
—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

Second Coming Of Huggy Bear: The Godfather
—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

Separated At Birth: D-Lo Brown and Cuba Gooding Jr.
—aeroquiddity@yahoo.com

She's Just Gettin' Better: Tammy Lynn Sytch
—Steve Cavitt, Carencro, LA

Sideburns Of The Year: Lash LeRoux
—scewball1@juno.com

Simon Says, "I Suck!": Simon Diamond
—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

Skinniest Wrestler Since Andy Kaufman: Spike Dudley

—Charles Kuhn, Ardmore, PA

Smashed More Guitars Than Pete Townshend: Jeff Jarrett

—Ed Gurbisz Jr., Tannersville, PA

Someone Should Tell Him That *Lethal Weapon IV* Was A Bomb: Steve Blackman

—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

She's No Shania Twain, But I'm Glad ECW's On TNN: Francine

—Adam Wilcox, Niagara Falls, Ontario

S-S-S-Sellouts: The Dudley Boyz

—Gary McCabe, RAVEN900@aol.com

Take This Award, Turn It Sideways, And Stick It ...: The Rock

—JGrmmtt@aol.com

"Terra Ryzing" The Competition: Hunter Hearst Helmsley

—John Clifton Womack, Philadelphia, PA

The Atlanta Falcons Need His Help Desperately: Bill Goldberg

—Barry Boudreaux, Houma, LA

The Ego Doesn't Fall Far From The Tree: Shane McMahon

—Ed Gurbisz Jr., Tannersville, PA

The '80s Rock Band Lookalikes: Test, Edge, Christian, and The Hardy Boyz

—JGrmmtt@aol.com

The Honky Tonk Man Elvis Impersonator Award: The Rock

—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

The Intimate Warrior: Val Venis

—John Clifton Womack, Philadelphia, PA

The Jar Jar Binks Most Annoying Character Award: Riki Rachtman

—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

The J. Edgar Hoover Memorial Award: Perry Saturn

—JDawg1183@aol.com

The Little Engine That Could: X-Pac

—Billy Zias, Astoria, NY

The Most Well-Spoken Announcer Since Gorilla Monsoon: Cyrus the Virus

—Nathan Couch, Cleveland, OH

The Old Age Outlaws: Pat Patterson and Jerry Brisco

—John Clifton Womack, Philadelphia, PA

The Only Show I Have Ever Watched On TNN: ECW

—Ken Tuccio, Ansonia, CT

The Only Video I Hate More Than "La Vida Loca": Any of Konnan's videos

—Ken Tuccio, Ansonia, CT

The Total Jackass: Lex Luger

—James L. O'Connor, New Orleans, LA

They Would Have Lost The Civil War: The Union

—Jose Hernandez, Dallas, TX

Time To Get A Snack: Scott Norton vs. Ernest Miller

—Sean Fluharty, Baton Rouge, LA

Why Can't He Come To The Ring Like Everyone Else?: Edge

—Nick Roosa, trnroosa@aol.com

Wrestler Of The Decade: Bret Hart

—Harold Pawlik, Erie, PA

Two-Time, Two-Time, Two-Time Loser: "Diamond" Dallas Page

—Todd Friedman, Homerj331@aol.com

Underrated Feud Of The Year: Steve Bradley vs. Kurt Angle

—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

Weird Moment Of The Year: Arn Anderson and Sid Vicious shaking hands on *Nitro*

—William Wright III, Pearl City, HI

Went Gracefully From Pin-Downs To Pin-Ups: Rena Mero

—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Where Did He Come From?: Mike Awesome

—JDawg1183@aol.com

Who's Better Than Kanyon?: Nova

—Mike Strah, Deer Park, WA

Why 2 J?: Chris Jericho

—Steven D. Hammonds, Cunningham, KY

Will Wrestle For Food: The Ultimate Warrior

—Johnny Heering, Bethel, CT

Works Better Than Sleeping Pills: *WCW Saturday Night*

—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Wrestles A Lot For A Banned Man: Sabu

—Brian Paige, Louisville, KY □

2000 PREDICTIONS

PWI 99 ACHIEVEMENT

What do our readers think will happen in the world of professional wrestling during the next 12 months? Once again we asked them, and as usual, our armchair prophets came through with some bizarre ideas. Will anyone's 2000 predictions come true? Check this issue next year to find out!

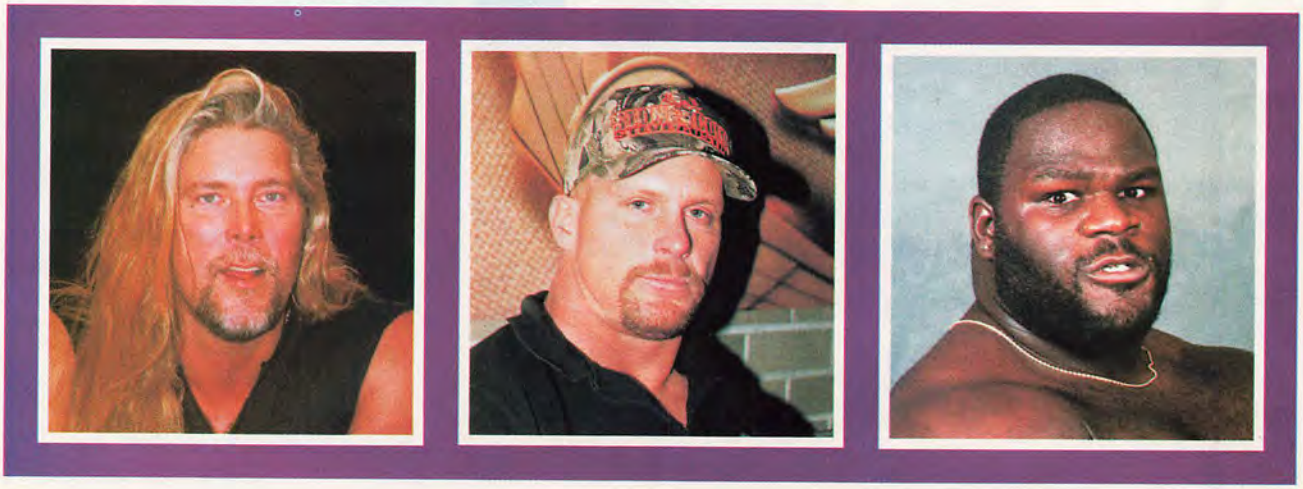
Hulk Hogan, **Sting**, and **Kevin Nash** will continue to play hot potato with the WCW World title ... **Yokozuna** will lose 300 pounds using the **George Foreman** grill and will return to the WWF ... **Big Bossman** and **One Man Gang** will reunite as **The Twin Towers** and win the WWF World tag team title ... **Rena Mero** will co-star in the hit movie *I Still Think I Remember What You Did Three Summers Ago* ... **Nikita Koloff** will come out of retirement and pin **Edge** at SummerSlam to capture the WWF Intercontinental title ... **Chris Jericho** will defeat **The Big Show**, **The Undertaker**, **The Rock**, and **Steve Austin** in consecutive rounds to win the WrestleMania XVI World title tournament ... **Taz** will abruptly quit the WWF after feuding with **"Road Runner" Terry Taylor** ... *WCW Thunder* will be canceled, and no one will notice or care.

—Sean Fluharty, Baton Rouge, LA

Linda McMahon will win the WWF women's title, but lose it to **Vince** (dressed as **Goldust**). This will lead to the title being declared vacant and the women's division eventually being phased out ... **Rob Van Dam** will finally win the ECW World title, but he will then lose it to **Tommy Dreamer** ... After winning the WCW World title, **Bret Hart** will retire and start his own wrestling promotion in Canada ... **Chris Jericho** will win the Intercontinental title at the Royal Rumble ... **The Warrior**, **The Blue Meanie**, **The Bruise Brothers**, **Vic Grimes**, and **Scott Norton** will all join ECW ... **Yokozuna**, **Buff Bagwell**, **Raven**, **Lenny Lane**, and **Lodi** will all join the WWF ... FMW, New Japan, or All-Japan will finally do a PPV that will be available in the United States ... **Mark Henry** will get rid of his "Sexual Chocolate" persona and start dressing like **Huggy Bear**.

—HGil703037@aol.com

The Y2J bug will actually hit the WWF on January 1, 2000, and **Vince McMahon** will have no choice but to shut the company down. ... **Chris Jericho** will then appear on *WCW Monday Nitro* on January 3, laughing hysterically and claiming he destroyed the WWF, and that WCW finally regained its savior. WCW's ratings will triple over the next few weeks, and it will never *eh-eh-eh-ever* lose



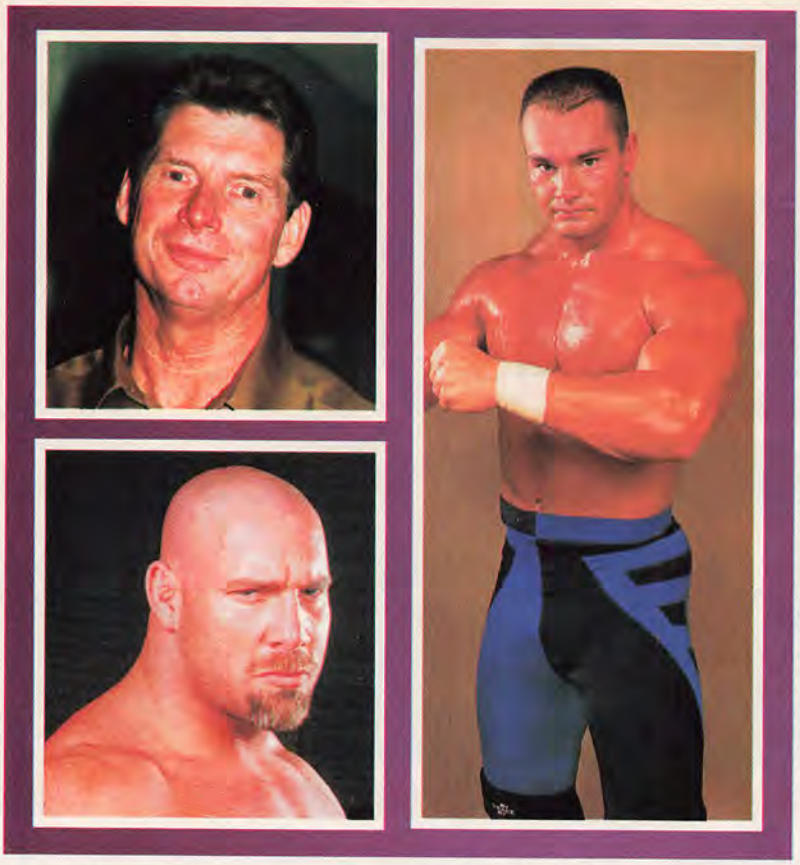
the ratings war again! ... **The Rock**, **Steve Austin**, **The Undertaker**, **The Big Show**, **Kane**, and **"Triple-H"** will all jump to WCW and force **Hulk Hogan**, **Ric Flair**, **Kevin Nash**, **Scott Hall**, **Sting**, and **The Total Package** into retirement ... **Rob Van Dam**, furious with the lack of competition he has been facing, will throw the ECW TV belt down after his two-year anniversary, announcing to ECW fans that he signed with WCW and that he didn't sell out—he gave in! ... TNN will cancel *ECW On TNN* when **Paul Heyman** refuses to let **Crook** and **Chase** join **Joey Styles** as color commentators ... **Jerry Lynn** will be awarded the ECW TV title after RVD's departure, but will lose it several weeks later to **Simon Diamond**. Simon will be very protective of his new gold, and his toughest challenger will be **Jazz** ... As for the ECW World title, **Mike Awesome** will hold the belt until the HeatWave 2000 PPV, when **Cactus Jack** returns to ECW and dethrones him in an exploding ring death match ... WCW's cruiserweight division will be stronger than ever when it acquires **Jeff Hardy**, who will hold the cruiserweight title all year ... **Rob Van Dam** and **Chris Benoit** will have the Feud of the Year, which will conclude with Van Dam beating Benoit in an iron man match for the U.S. title at Starrcade ... **Rena Mero** will be brought in for WCW's 127th attempt at succeeding with a women's division ... She will feud with **Kimberly**, and their *Playboy* spreads will be given out as "souvenirs" to fans ... WCW announcers **Tony Schiavone** and **Mike Tenay** will act as if nothing changed.

—RobVanDamJ@aol.com

The NWO will re-form, break up, then re-form and break up again ... **Bret Hart** will walk into 2000 with the WCW World title, but lose it to **Chris Benoit** at SuperBrawl IX in one of the best matches of all-time ... **Hulk Hogan** will retire for good, but not before passing the torch to **Goldberg** ... **Disco Inferno**, **Berlyn**, **Ernest Miller**, and several other mid-carders will hold the WCW TV belt ... **Sid Vicious**, **Goldberg**, **Scott Hall**, and **The Total Package** will all hold the WCW World title ... **Rick Steiner** will hold the U.S. title on more than one occasion ... **Dennis Rodman** will come back and then leave, but no one will care ... **Vince Russo** and **Ed Ferrara** will make WCW interesting again, but it will not pass the WWF as the number-one promotion ... **Steve Austin** will turn against **The Rock**, thus making The Rock the most popular wrestler in the world. These two will fight over the WWF World title, with The Rock taking it from Austin at WrestleMania XVI ... **Chris Jericho** will win the Intercontinental title at WrestleMania XVI and hold on to it until SummerSlam, where he will lose to **X-Pac** because of interference from **Hunter Hearst Helmsley**. **DeGeneration X** will re-form with **"Triple-H," X-Pac**, **Billy Gunn**, and **Shawn Michaels** ... Billy Gunn will once again turn against **Road Dogg**, this time in a tag title defense against **The Dudley Boyz** at WrestleMania. **Mankind** and **"Dude Love" Stevie Richards** will be torn apart when **Cactus Jack** comes between them ... **Chris Jericho** will win King of the Ring ... **Rob Van Dam** will win the ECW World title without ever losing the TV title, which will then be declared vacant. **Jerry Lynn** will win a tournament to become the new TV champion. **Chris Candido** will take the TV title from Lynn in May ... **Sabu** will finally beat RVD late in the year and take the title, only to drop it to **Justin Credible**, who will drop it to **Raven** ... **Tommy Dreamer** and Raven will clash at Guilty as Charged, with Raven pinning Dreamer.

—Homerj331@aol.com

Rena Mero will sign with WCW and be **Hulk Hogan's** valet ... **Bobcat**, **Strawberry Fields**, and **Sweet Dreams** will leave the independent circuit and join **The Godfather** in the WWF ... **Rob Van Dam** will retire the ECW TV championship and defeat **Sabu** for the World title ... As



a result of taking so many beatings in the ratings, *WCW Monday Nitro* will be canceled. WCW will then fold ... **Bill Goldberg** will sign with the WWF and defeat **Steve Austin** for the World title in 30 seconds ... **Missy Hyatt** will join the WWF and win the women's championship.

—JLubas1125@aol.com

Bill Goldberg will jump to the WWF, only to be speared into oblivion by **Edge** ... The WWF World heavyweight title will change hands 217 times ... **Kevin Nash** will die after finally laughing too hard at one of his own jokes ... **Rob Van Dam** will make history by pinning **Jerry Lynn** on every single ECW pay-per-view and TV show held all year ... **Bobby Heenan** will become the most popular man in the business when he decides that he can't take it anymore and plants **Tony Schiavone** through three tables covered with thousands of thumbtacks, then finishes him off with a 450 splash off the top of a steel cage ... **Debra** will open a kennel ... A nice family will take **Nicole Bass** to a warm, loving home ... Debra will go on to win PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED'S 2000 Match of the Year, even though she didn't wrestle once ... On behalf of all women, **Lucy Van Pelt** will get revenge on **Jeff Jarrett** when she asks him to kick a football ... After taking **Jesse James'** advice for far too long, **Billy Gunn's** posterior will finally take the plunge and get a calling card ... **Konnan** will retire, and the next week, *Nitro* will win the Monday night ratings battle ... *Thunder*, however, will not.

—Stephen Davidson, Tazewell, VA

The Total Package will retire from wrestling so he can devote all of his time to flexing and posing in front of a full-length mirror ... **Jesse "The Body" Ventura** will shock the world by returning to the ring for one match against his arch-enemy **Hulk Hogan**, with **Pat Buchanan** serving as special guest referee ... **Yokozuna**, **Jake "The Snake" Roberts**, and **King Kong Bundy** will invade WCW ... **Steve Austin** will face **Randy Savage** in the main event of WrestleMania XVI ... **The West Texas Rednecks** will sign with a major record company, and their single "Rap Is Crap" will quickly soar to number one on the *Billboard* "Hot 100" chart ... Steve Austin and **Scott Hall** will engage in a beer-drinking contest live on national television, with the winner receiving a one-year supply of his favorite brew ... **Kevin Nash** will start doing TV commercials for Miss Clairol ... **Sid Vicious** will capture the WCW World title in early-2000 and successfully defend it until the end of the year ... **Van Hammer**, **Billy Kidman**, and **Buff Bagwell** will go to the WWF, and **Vince McMahon** will transform them into major stars ... **Chyna** will pose for *Playboy* ... **Disco Inferno** will star in his own TV show, a disco dance party program called *Shake Your Groove Thing* ... **The Ultimate Warrior** will make up for fizzling out in WCW by returning to the WWF and regaining his status as a top star ... **Mona** will win the newly reactivated WCW women's championship ... **Brian Knobs'** pit stop will continue to be one of the most dreaded moves in pro wrestling, devastating opponent after opponent before the former Nasty Boy discovers deodorant ... **Goldberg** will let his hair grow so he can play the lead role in the new *Superman* movie ... **The Road Warriors** will enter WCW meaner, madder, and hungrier than ever, and immediately get into a violent feud with **Scott Hall** and **Kevin Nash** ... **Gillberg** will take WCW by storm and make quick work of **Goldberg**, **Hulk Hogan**, **Ric Flair**, **Sting**, **Sid Vicious**, and any other top wrestler who stands in his way on the way to winning the World title. Hey, if **"Diamond" Dallas Page** can be a two-time, two-time, two-time World heavyweight champion, anything is possible.

—Mike Facciani, Johnstown, PA

Lance Storm will leave ECW for WCW, where he will bill himself as "Calgary's favorite son" and immediately get into a vicious feud with **Bret Hart** ... **Chris Jericho**, whose ego is already grossly inflated, will become even more unbearable after he wins the WWF Intercontinental title and dubs himself "The 10th Wonder Of The World" ... **Mike Quackenbush's** career will take a giant step forward with an upset victory over a major ECW star at Hardcore Heaven ... **"Gorgeous" Michelle Starr** will be suspended for 90 days after physically assaulting NWA President **Howard Brody** ... **Greg "The Hammer" Valentine** will finally hang up his trunks, but not before returning to the WWF for one night and beating **"Triple-H"** in a submission match ... **Stevie Richards** will become the **Tommy Rich** of the new millennium, winning the WWF World title on *Smackdown,* only to lose it three days later ... Like fathers, like sons: On the 16th anniversary of **Ric Flair** and **Dusty Rhodes'** epic confrontation at Starrcade '84, **David Flair** and **Dustin Runnels** will go head-to-head for the WCW World title at Starrcade 2000 ... PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED will continue to be regarded as the best wrestling magazine on the planet.

—Chris Oakley, Woburn, MA □

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37. Head lock
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41. Irish whip
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43. Leglock
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47. Pole ram
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ENLIGHTENING YEAR. I learned a lot in 1999, which is a good thing, because it would have been a shame to head stupidly into a new century and a new millennium. (By the way, I'm not buying that crap about 2000 not being the start of the new millennium. As far as I'm concerned, when 1999 turns over to 2000 on the world's odometer, something big has happened.) Anyway, the main thing I learned in 1999 was that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

Naturally, some examples:

Hulk Hogan, or Hollywood Hogan, or whatever he's calling himself these days. You know, I just can't figure it out. Maybe we should just call him Hogan, or "The Wrestler Previously Known As Hollywood Hogan," or maybe just "The Wrestler." No. We can't call him "The Wrestler." There's already a magazine with a copyright on that name.

Hogan's sudden and incredible change from rulebreaking rulebreaker to rulebreaking fan favorite reminds me once again that wrestling fans are either very gullible, very flexible, or very gullible and very flexible. All I know is that somewhere around the turn of the decade, Sgt. Slaughter turned tail on America during the Persian Gulf War and declared his allegiance to Iraq. When Slaughter begged the world for forgiveness, Hogan turned his back on him.

Hey, Hulk, didn't think I remembered that, did you? Well, I remember everything.

Fans have absolved Hulk Hogan of his sins, but Dave Rosenbaum hasn't—just as Hogan never forgave Sgt. Slaughter for siding with Iraq during the Persian Gulf War.

So my question is this: If the wrestling world couldn't forgive Sgt. Slaughter—at Hogan's behest not to forgive him—then why has it forgiven Hogan, who absolutely, positively, 100 percent turned his back on the fans who made him a multi millionaire in the first place? If Hogan isn't the most ungrateful, selfish person on earth, then I don't know who is.

Okay, that's one thing I learned in 1999: Wrestling fans will forgive just about anyone.

Another thing I learned in 1999 is that Rob Van Dam is not a very smart man, at least not when it comes to dealing with the media. I'm referring to my disagreeing with *PWI's* decision to make him number two in the *"PWI* 500," and Van Dam's angry reaction. Listen, I'm not going to allow Van Dam to use this column as a forum for his spoutings, but let's just say that "Mr. Monday Night," or "Mr. Pay-Per-View," or whatever he's calling himself these days, obviously never heard of the first rule of publicity: I don't care what you say about me—just say my name right.

Well, Van Dam apparently does care what you say about him, so I'm going to take my next learned lesson—some wrestlers just aren't very bright when dealing with the media—and apply it to my columns for the rest of my life. Unless Van Dam wins a world heavyweight title—and I mean the WWF or WCW world heavyweight title, not the ECW World heavyweight title, which I still don't think should be considered a world title—this is the last time you will read a detailed item about Rob Van Dam in my column. From now on, he can generate his own publicity.

Hypocrisy. I learned a lot about hypocrisy in 1999. For example, I learned that some Minnesota newspapers can run ads for strip joints and massage parlors in the sports sections of

their newspaper, but the governor of Minnesota is committing some horrible breach of ethics when he decides to hang around wrestling rings a little too much.

Yoo-hoo! People of Minnesota! You hired a wrestler as your governor, remember?

I'm not saying it's a good idea for Jesse Ventura to officiate wrestling matches. To tell you the truth, I think it's a bad idea. I think Ventura should be a little more careful about how he represents the state. And maybe he is being more careful. In a recent interview with David Letterman, Ventura refused to answer the question, "Which city is better, Minneapolis or St. Paul?" God forbid if Jesse Ventura, of all people, becomes politically correct.

Which leads me to my next point: In 1999, I learned that it's possible to be politically correct while being politically incorrect. That's the 1999 version of being a hippie in the 1960s. How else can we explain the popularity of guys like "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin, The Rock, and Mankind, who certainly aren't politically correct, yet have some of the largest followings in wrestling history?

You can see RVD on TNN and on pay-per-view, but don't expect to read a lot about him in any of Rosenbaum's columns until he wins the WWF or WCW world title.

Here's something I just can't believe: Mankind's biography, which spans well over 500 printed pages, immediately shot to near the top of the Amazon.com bestseller list. That's an amazing thing and proves not only how many millions of people are watching the WWF, but just how influential its wrestlers are. WCW's wrestlers, too. "Diamond" Dallas Page might have Ted Turner's name on his paycheck, but he was pushing Mankind's book on his Web site recently.

In 1999, I learned that, like it or not, I'm going to have to read a book written by a wrestler in 2000.

Well, I learned some bad things, too. The WCW and WWF world heavyweight titles have become meaningless. Everything has its price: Taz jumped from ECW to the WWF just weeks after he proclaimed his loyalty to ECW. And even the seemingly best of marriages could be worse off than they look. I'm talking about Howard Stern's marriage. In case you didn't hear, Stern and his wife were legally separated in the fall.

Is anything sacred? I already knew the answer to that question: no! □

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win lose or draw

By Harry Burkett

MOST OF OUR columnists are using their respective spaces to place certain aspects of the past year in proper perspective, and I think that's a good tradition. It's a useful service to our readers—and to us as well—to take a deep breath, analyze the past year, then start fresh.

But I don't think any topic affects the editors and writers of this magazine more than the state of wrestling journalism in 1999. PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED has long been the forerunner in this field and, on the surface, our approach hasn't changed much over the years. We do our best to be fair to all sides, never play political games with the various organizations, and never "push" individual superstars.

We have only one goal: to sell magazines.

To do that, we must uphold our journalistic integrity, meaning that we must stick to our core principles and always respect our readers. While *PWI's* mission remains the same, the art of news gathering and reporting has changed dramatically over the years. I'm certain this is the case throughout the publishing industry, whether the subject is wrestling, boxing, national affairs, or entertainment.

Thanks to ESPN, CNN, and the Internet, newsworthy events are reported within minutes, and you can bet a broadcast journalist will be doing a standup in front of the smoldering wreckage long before the bodies are recovered. In the case of the Somalia conflict a few years ago, news cameras were set up on the beach to videotape U.S. troops as they came ashore. What if that had happened on D-Day?!

The same is true in wrestling. In the case of Owen Hart's death in May, there was a plethora of information on the Internet by 6 a.m. on the morning following his death. As is the case with almost all Web sites, much of the information was unsubstantiated or merely speculative. The Associated Press, however, had filed a detailed account of the tragedy—complete with a quote from Stu Hart.

Unfortunately, fans don't have the benefit of the AP reporting on every wrestling story. Even if they did, AP reporters don't have extensive backgrounds in the sport, and their stories would need to be scrutinized as well.

A decade ago, our company established *PWI Weekly,* a newsletter that could be distributed to subscribers substantially faster than our monthly and quarterly magazines. That was followed by the *PWI* Hotline, which could be updated on the spot. Today, *PWI Weekly* (also available by e-mail) and the *PWI* Hotline are regarded as two of the most credible sources of immediate wrestling information.

In 1999, the saga of Chris Jericho epitomized new age journalism. Was his ankle injury career-threaten-

Pat Patterson's battles against Sgt. Slaughter and other WWF rulebreakers in the early-'80s were featured on Saturday morning wrestling shows, but you could only keep up to date on their feuds by reading *PWI.*

ing? Would he leave WCW for the WWF when his contract expired in July? Some Web sites were devoted to day-to-day updates on Jericho's status. As it turned out, Jericho returned for only sporadic appearances in WCW before jumping to the WWF in August.

In the January 2000 issue of *PWI*, Jericho cleared up some of the misinformation that had been floating around cyberspace—and affirmed some things that were true—in a special "Press Conference" with Associate Editor Will Welsh. This was another occasion when our magazines delved into the murky world of promotional politics, much like Frank Krewda's interviews of Jim Ross and Shane Douglas in recent years.

Although the Internet is a great source for wrestling information, it is also the breeding ground of rumor and conjecture. Chris Jericho, like others, has used the pages of *PWI* to dispel untruths reported on the Internet.

Politics, marketing, and ratings were not viable topics in the past. When *PWI* was founded in 1979, there was no way to compare the ratings of one wrestling program to another because head-to-head clashes in the same market rarely happened. Likewise, very few wrestlers were bound to specific promotions in a legal sense, making contractual concerns—such as expirations and renewals—irrelevant.

Consider a 1980 "Press Conference" with Pat Patterson. He had just been betrayed by new manager Lou Albano and swore revenge against Albano, The Samoans, and former manager The Grand Wizard. Patterson's comments can be summed up in one sentence: "[Wizard and Albano are] terrified of what happens when I've polished off all their goons."

Stu Saks recalls that interview. "Steve Farhood, Gary Morgenstein, and I spent the whole afternoon at Madison Square Garden that day. But I think that interview with Patterson took only five minutes. Other than the fact Patterson was as mad as heck and was going to hurt some people, there wasn't much else for him to say. Contrast that with our one-hour interview with Jericho and you'll realize that a wrestler's career is much more complex today—and there are lots of issues to be addressed."

Matt Brock, who has covered the sport for more than 40 years, thinks wrestling's information age has gotten the sport away from its roots. "Nowadays, especially when I talk to an up-and-comer, they're so afraid of how certain comments will affect their 'character' or if it will annoy management," he said. "I remember when I could sit in Victor Rivera's nightclub in Philadelphia and talk to the guys about anything, and I wrote everything down on a napkin. That's when wrestlers dealt man-to-man, instead of hiring agents and relying on public relations people. Yeah, times have changed."

But some reporters haven't. Brock still hasn't upgraded from a manual typewriter to an electric one, let alone a personal computer. Every publishing company should have a Matt Brock, someone to remind us of the basics. □

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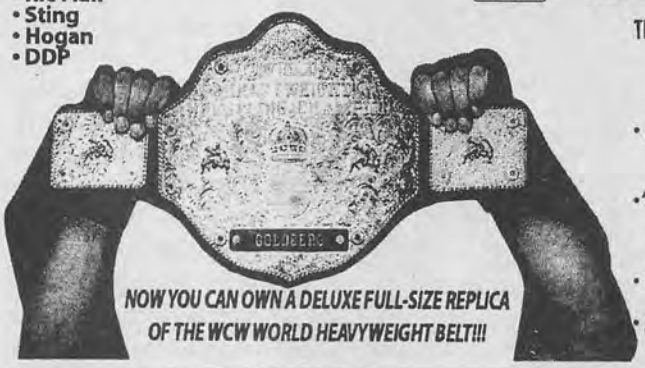

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WWF vs. WCW THE MONDAY NIGHT WAR

By Jason Kirell

Who has the power? Is it *Raw* or *Nitro?* At one point on *Raw* in 1999, the big mystery was the identity of a man known only as the "Higher Power" or "Greater Power." His identity was a mystery for only a few weeks, and while it was suspenseful for a little while, it ended up being somewhat of a letdown when it was revealed to be Vince McMahon himself. Now on *Nitro* we have all the references to the powers-that-be, who are two new guys who were given a lot of authority in WCW shortly after Eric Bischoff was fired. We haven't seen their faces yet, but for some reason, their voices sound familiar. Kinda *Noo Yaw-ker-ish* with a real mean attitudes to go along with the power they're wielding.

Of course, some fans are privy to the fact that these two men are former WWF TV writers Vince Russo and Ed Ferrara, who recently defected to WCW. What impact will the powers-that-be have on *Nitro?* Well, if the first few shows in which they were involved are any indication ... *a lot!*

Nitro certainly has changed a lot since Vince Russo and Ed Ferrara joined WCW. Scott Hall vs. a scantily clad woman on October 25? It was a memorable segment, but it didn't beat what the WWF's *Raw* offered at the same time.

You'd have a hard time finding many fans who don't think *Nitro* has become a much more interesting program since Russo and Ferrara came aboard. As a matter of fact, *Nitro* is starting to look a whole lot like *Raw,* with its abundance of quick cuts from one scene to another and backstage interviews. Add a few scantily clad women and some dicey language and you have *Raw Lite,* as some have started to call it. Which is maybe what the powers-that-be were after all along.

Wrestling fans have wondered for years what the WWF would be like if it had the deep talent roster that WCW has. Or what WCW shows would look like with some WWF attitude thrown into the mix. Sounds interesting, doesn't it? Apparently some fans thought so, as the ratings for the first *Nitro* in which Russo and Ferrara were involved (a 3.1 during the head-to-head competition with *Raw* on October 18) were up from the previous week (2.1 head-to-head). We should know within a few months whether they are on truly on their way to righting the WCW ship and making

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

OCTOBER 11

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	6.3	5.9	5.9	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.7	6.1	6.1	6.1
Nitro	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.2	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.8	2.6 (2.1*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **Just how badly was *Nitro* struggling at this point? These numbers tell you a lot. Once *Raw* hit the air, *Nitro* was a dead duck. The highest quarter-hour rating it got during the head-to-head competition was a 2.4. *Nitro* struggled throughout the last two hours before finally petering out with a miserable 1.8 rating for its overrun, which featured a Chris Benoit and Bret Hart vs. Rick Steiner and Lex Luger match and a brief Goldberg-Sid confrontation. The WWF's overrun featured a British Bulldog-Rock match and a Steve Austin-Triple-H brawl.** ***(Note: Each ratings point represents 750,000 households; 1Q, 2Q, etc. refer to ratings for each quarter-hour segment of the shows; OR is the rating for the overrun portion of the show.)***

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

OCTOBER 18

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.4	5.8	5.1	5.9	5.1	5.1	5.3	5.5	5.6	5.4
Nitro	3.4	3.7	4.1	3.9	3.1	2.7	3.4	3.3	3.5	3.0	2.8	2.7	3.2	3.3 (3.1*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **Look at the 11Q and 12Q numbers for *Nitro*. Both are in the high 2s, which means that whatever was on was not drawing as well as what was featured from 7Q through 10Q. What was on were The Filthy Animals. They were stacked against a plethora of WWF tag teams, including The New Age Outlaws, Hardy Boyz, Edge and Christian, and Rock 'n' Sock Connection over on *Raw* ... which to no one's surprise handily beat *Nitro* again.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

OCTOBER 25

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.2	5.2	5.4	6.3	6.0	5.6	5.1	5.8	5.6	5.6
Nitro	3.5	4.0	4.1	4.4	3.5	3.6	3.5	2.7	3.0	2.5	3.5	3.7	3.7	3.5 (3.2*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **Take a close look at 11Q. The numbers may not seem all that striking, but it should be noted that in that quarter, *Nitro* pulled an old ratings trick that *Raw* has been employing for years: the use of scantily clad women. Yes, it became clear that the Vince Russo/Ed Ferrara era was underway when The Outsiders took on three women who certainly weren't wrestlers. *Raw* countered with Test and The British Bulldog in a cage match that was made memorable by Shane McMahon's breathtaking leap from the top of the cage onto The Mean Street Posse.**

THE MONDAY NIGHT NUMBERS

NOVEMBER 1

	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	5Q	6Q	7Q	8Q	9Q	10Q	11Q	12Q	OR	Composite
Raw	—	—	—	—	5.6	6.1	6.2	5.6	6.0	5.9	5.5	5.8	6.5	5.9
Nitro	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.0	3.2	2.9	2.9	3.1	3.0	2.5	2.7	2.7	2.5	3.2 (2.9*)

Tuesday Morning Quarterback: **The key ratings figures here can be found in 6Q, in which the WWF dominated WCW head-to-head. In that quarter, Big Bossman and "Big Show" Paul Wight continued their disturbing feud that centers around all the disrespectful things Bossman has said about Wight's father, who has since died. Over on *Nitro,* Disco Inferno took on Curt Hennig in a opening round tournament matchup for the WCW World title. The Bossman-Wight feud might be tasteless, but a lot of people were willing to watch it on this night.**

the Monday night ratings wars competitive again.

Going a little too far? Big Bossman has never been a nice guy in the ring. From his time as a no-nonsense prison guard in Cobb County, Georgia, to his first tenure in the WWF to his second go-round now, he has never been afraid to show us that he has quite a mean streak. Now he's using that mean streak as he undertakes his biggest challenge to date—the 7'2", 500-pound "Big Show" Paul Wight.

What at first looked like a huge mistake on Bossman's part has actually turned into quite the career boost for him. Not only has he managed to hold his own in his feud with Big Show, but he's actually frustrated the big man so much that he's gotten the better of him on many occasions on *Raw.*

More important in the big picture, however, is the issue of whether a lot of what he has done in recent months belongs on a televised wrestling show. So far, most WWF fans haven't been disturbed enough to turn off the segments of *Raw* and *Smackdown* in which Bossman has insulted Show's father, interrupted a moment of silence to honor Show's father's memory, or even crashed the man's funeral service. But if the quality of *Nitro* continues to improve, and *Raw* continues to present a lot of shock TV segments to try to keep viewers tuning in, the ratings gap between *Raw* and *Nitro* could close a lot faster than a lot of people expect at this point. □

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arena reports

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UNITED STATES

ARKANSAS

MENA—Global Pro Wrestling at Snappy Mack's: **Jimmy King** pinned **Bill Ash** ... **Jimmy James** defeated **Dirty Doug** ... **Scott Storm** beat **New York Nightmare** by disqualification ... **Jimmy James** & **Scott Storm** beat **Dirty Doug** & **New York Nightmare**.
(10-09-99)

—Matt Duffield

CHOCTAW—Capital City Wrestling at the Auction Barn: **Big Daddy Cyprus** wrestled **The Midnight Ryder** to a double-disqualification ... **The Madd Chief** pinned **Drew Jordan** ... **Steve Frost** beat **New York Nightmare** by disqualification ... **The Superstar** beat **The Reaper** by disqualification ... **Max Riproc** defeated **Rude Dawg** ... **Rude Dawg** won a $5,000 battle royal.
(09-24-99)

—Boyd Darnel

CALIFORNIA

PACIFICA—All Pro Wrestling at Terra Nova High School: **Christopher Daniels** won a battle royal ... **Tony Jones** beat **Boom Boom Comini** ... **Jimmy Ripp** defeated **Jack Perez** ... **Dic Grimes** & **Sweetie Pie** beat **The Snott Brothers** ... **Michael Modest** defeated universal champion **Shane Dynasty** to win the title ... **Chris Ward** & **Ma'ock the Magician** beat **Maxx Justice** & **Bison Smith** by disqualification ... **Westside Playaz 2000** defeated **The Ballard Brothers** ... **Christopher Daniels** wrestled **Donovan Morgan** to a no-contest.
(10-09-99)

—Jeremy Medeiros

CONNECTICUT

BRIDGEPORT—NWA New England at Central High School: **Jason Rage** beat **Jeff Mangles** ... **Louis Ortiz** beat **Sonic Youth** ... **Violet Flame** defeated women's champion **Amanda Storm** to win the title ... **Brian Daye** beat **Joel Davis** ... Tag team champions **Knuckles Nelson** & **Tony Rumble** defeated **Trooper Gilmore** & **Corporal Johnson** ... **Curtis Slamdawg** beat **The Mercenary** for the vacant Connecticut state title ... **Muscles Martino** beat **Alex Arion** ... **Ron Zombie** defeated **Beau Douglas** ... **Slick Wagner Brown** beat **Phoenix King** ... **Tony Atlas** beat **King Kong Bundy**.
(10-15-99)

—Rich Palladino

DANBURY—Northeast Wrestling at Henry Abbott Tech High School: **Don Montoya** (with **Reckless Youth** & **Paul Adams**) defeated light heavyweight champion **Mike Quackenbush** in a non-title match ... **King Kong Bundy** pinned **Rocky Shore** ... **Julio Fantastiko** defeated **Jay Jaillette** ... **The Bushwhackers** defeated **Flash Wheeler** & **Sledge** ... **Mike Quackenbush** pinned **Don Montoya** in a rematch from earlier in the night, with **Paul Adams** and **Reckless Youth** barred from ringside ... **Ralph Mosca** pinned **Juan Xavier** ... **Jerry "The King" Lawler** pinned **Julio Fantastiko**.
(10-15-99)

—Timothy A. Walker

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON—East Coast Wrestling Association at St. Matthew's Parish Hall: **Jimi V** defeated **Jeff Peterson** ... **Trent Acid** & **Johnny Cashmere** beat **Mr. Ooh La La** & **Mozart Fontaine** ... **Ground Zero** won a royal rumble ... **Mark Shrader** & **Thunder** beat **Twiggy Ramirez** & **Eddie Valentine** ... **Glen Osbourne** won a royal rumble ... **Brute Force** defeated **Cheetah Master** & **J.R. Ryder** ... **Ty Street** beat **Vincent Goodnight** to win the vacant Mid-Atlantic title ... **J.J. The Ring Crew Guy** beat **Ground Zero** to win the vacant heavyweight title.
(10-15-99)

—Jeff Amdur & Brett Schwan

FLORIDA

MIAMI—WWF at Miami Arena: **The Godfather** beat **Prince Albert** ... **Papi Chulo** defeated **Miguel Perez Jr.** ... **Val Venis** beat **Steve Blackman** ... **Crash** & **Bob Holly** beat **The Acolytes** and **The Dudley Boyz** in a three-way match ... **Jesse James** beat **Chris Jericho** in a streetfight ... **Tori** beat **Jacquelyn** ... European champ **D-Lo Brown** beat **Mark Henry** ... **Mankind** defeated **"British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith** ... **The Rock** beat World champion **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by disqualification.
(10-10-99)

—Dominick Valenti

CRYSTAL RIVER—IPW Hardcore Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **The Cuban Assassin** pinned **Freedom Ryder** ... **O.D.D.** beat hardcore champ **Rick Thames** to win the title ... **Haystacks Calhoun Jr.** pinned **Notorious D.O.G.** ... Tag team champs **Phi DeKappa U** wrestled **Anarchy Suicide Squad** to a no-contest ... Light heavyweight champ **Jeff Peterson** beat **Billy Fives** ... **X-Treme** pinned **Frankie Capone**.
(10-09-99)

—Ed Westerly

JACKSONVILLE—Thunder Wrestling Federation at the Thunderdome: **Tiger** pinned **The Phantom** ... **TPT** beat **Alexander Figgs** by disqualification ... **Ghetto Superstar** beat **Sean Starr** by disqualification ... **The Assassin** defeated **Logan Styles** by reverse decision ... **The Florida Hurricane** and **Sean Starr** wrestled to a double-countout.
(09-24-99)

—Marianne Poore

GEORGIA

ATHENS—PWF at the 40-Watt Club: Tag team champs **Italian Stallion** & **Brutus McNasty** defeated **Bloodseeker** & **The Stalker** by disqualification ... **Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity** won a battle royal ... Eastern States champion **American G.I.** wrestled **Hangman** to a no-contest ... **Super Mario** defeated **Bill E. Goat** ... **Juicer** beat **Masked Scorpion**.
(10-06-99)

—John Stamey

LOGANVILLE—NWA Georgia at the Georgia Belle Flea Market: **Onyx** beat **T.J. Gray** ... **Faku** & **Jason Powers** defeated **The Sex Pistols** in a best-of-three-falls match to win the NWA Georgia tag team title. NWA President **Howard Brody** reversed the decision by telephone later in the show ... **Dango** beat **Dusty Dotson** ... **Thunder** defeated **The Sex Pistols** ... **Bart Sawyer** & **Andy Anderson** beat **The Sex Pistols**.
(09-30-99)

—Kathleen Neaple

AUGUSTA—WWF at the Civic Center: Intercontinental champion **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **The Godfather** ... Hardcore champion **Al Snow** defeated **Bob Holly** ... Women's champion **Ivory** beat **Luna** ... European champ **Mark Henry** defeated **D-Lo Brown** ... **Crash Holly** beat **Chaz** ... **Davey Boy Smith** defeated **Test** ... **Kane** beat **Big Show** ... **Edge** & **Christian** won a four-way match over **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq**, **The Dudley Boyz**, and **Matt** & **Jeff Hardy** ... **The Rock** beat **Chris Jericho**.
(09-25-99)

—Wilmont Harris

INDIANA

JEFFERSONVILLE—NWA/Ohio Valley Wrestling

presents "Octoberfest" at Davis Arena: **Russ McCullough** beat **Randy Royal** ... **Chris Alexander** defeated **Low Rider** and **The Eagle** in a three-way match ... **Scotty Sabre** & **B.J. Payne** beat **Vito** & **Guido Andretti** ... **Jebediah** defeated **Mr. Black** ... Southern tag team champions **Jason Lee** & **Rip Rogers** beat **Trailer P. Trash** & **Rico Constantino** ... Heavyweight champion **Rob Conway** defeated **Bull Buchanan** by disqualification ... **Nick Dinsmore** beat **The Damaja**.
(10-17-99)

—Bob Pontrich

BLOOMFIELD—CWF at Joe's Pizza: **Super Destroyer** and **Mr. Dammit** wrestled to a double-disqualification ... **Black Death** beat **Sergeant York** ... **Cannonball Hall** pinned **Timber** ... **Swing Daddy** defeated **The Ninja** ... **Bryan the Lion** beat **Big Joe** and **T-Bolt Baxton** in a three-way match to win the vacant U.S. heavyweight title.
(10-10-99)

—Brad Smithson

KANSAS

EMPORIA—Renegades of Wrestling at the Civic Center: **"Latin Thunder" Guerrero** beat **Jammer** ... **Big Hoss** beat **Mystic Warrior** ... **Bart** & **Brad Batten** beat **Hott Property** ... **Beautiful Bobby** beat **Little Kato** ... **Tommy Rogers** beat **Brutal Assassin** ... **Giant Enforcer** beat **Militia Man** ... **Tom Jones** beat **Doink**.
(10-09-99)

—Brett Wolfe

WICHITA—WCW at the Kansas Auditorium: **Hector Garza** & **Silver King** beat **Villano IV** & **Villano V** ... **Prince Iaukea** defeated **Evan Karagias** ... **Perry Saturn** beat **Jerry Flynn** by disqualification ... **Perry Saturn, Chris Benoit,** & **Dean Malenko** defeated **Jerry Flynn, Hugh Morrus,** & **Brian Knobs** ... **Buff Bagwell** beat **Berlyn** by disqualification ... World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** defeated **Curly Bill** & **Kendall Windham** ... **Bill Goldberg** beat U.S. champion **Sid Vicious** by disqualification.
(10-01-99)

—Bob Clearly

KENTUCKY

SOMERSET—Hardcore Championship Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Kentucky Slugger** beat **Spanish Fly** ... **Shawn Christopher** and **Ric Gunner** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Stan Sierra** beat **Beau James, Ric Gunner,** & **Terry Bull** in a handicap match ... **Chilly Willie** defeated **Brute Shooter** ... **Beau James, Terry Bull,** & **Ric Gunner** beat **Stan Sierra, Stevie Phillips,** & **Shawn Christopher** in a baseball bat-on-a-pole match.
(10-15-99)

—Bill Needham

LOUISIANA

WESTWAGO—ECW at the Alario Sports Center: **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Little Guido** and **Simon Diamond** in a three-way dance ... **P.N. News** & **Rod Price** defeated **Jack** & **Bo Dup** ... **Axl Rotten** & **Mahoney** beat **C.W. Anderson** & **Bill Wyles** ... **Chris Candido** and **Nova** wrestled to a no-contest ... World champ **Mike Awesome** defeated **New Jack** ... **Justin Credible** & **Lance Storm** beat **Danny Doring** & **Amish Roadkill** ... **Jazz** beat **Jason** ... **Rhino** defeated **David Cash** ... **Sabu** beat **Rhino** ... TV champ **Rob Van Dam** beat **Spike Dudley**.
(10-09-99)

—Dominick Valenti

MARYLAND

FREDERICK—NWL at XHales Nightclub: **Dan Kallis** pinned **The Doc** ... **Gillberg** beat **Ramblin' Rich** ... **Brian Anthony** defeated **Aidian** ... **Flex Wheeler** beat **Paul Beswick** and **John Balsamo** in a three-way dance ... **The Kings of Pain** beat **The Grungers** for the tag title ... **John Rambo** pinned **Kurt Keizer**.
(10-16-99)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

HAGERSTOWN—HOPWF at the House of Pain: **Leslie Leatherman** beat **Thunderbear Thorbjorn** by countout ... **Brian Anthony** pinned **Body Kount** ... **Downtown Raphael** won a three-way match against **Magnificent Who** and **Screwface** ... **Skank** beat **Tate Griffin** by submission ... **Aidiean** beat **Flex Fenom** ... **Jake Davis** beat **John Balsamo** ... Cruiserweight champ **Chuckie Manson** pinned **Jeremy Stoned** ... **Paul Beswick** & **Slickyboy** beat **Gutterboy** & **John Rambo** by disqualification ... **Holy Ghost** & **Iron Head** wrestled **Mark Manson** & **Rocco Murder** to a no-contest ... **OGB** beat **The Doc** ... **Magic** beat **Dan Kallis** by disqualification ... **Hard Rock Hamiltion** beat **Kurt Keiser** & **Jerkface** in a handicap match ... **Iron Head** won a battle royal.
(10-12-99)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

BALTIMORE—Maryland Championship Wrestling at Teamsters Hall: **Corporal Punishment** beat **Qennan Creed** ... **Adam Flash** defeated **Quinn Nash** ... **Gregory Martin** beat **Mark Shrader** ... **Danny Rose** defeated **Cueball Carmichael** ... **2 Dope** & **Sydeswype** beat **Jimmy Cicero** & **Max Muscle** ... **Julio Sanchez, Mike Quackenbush,** & **Chastity** defeated **Earl the Pearl, Rich Myers,** & **Platinum Nat** ... **Quinn Nash** beat **Platinum Nat** to win the cruiserweight title ... **Bruiser** beat **Tom Brandi** and **Romeo Valentino** in a three-way match.
(10-03-99)

—Mike Nicklas

MASSACHUSETTS

WORCESTER—ECW at the Palladium: **Axl Rotten** & **Mahoney** beat **C.W. Anderson** & **Bill Wyles** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** defeated **Tom Marquez** ... **Musketeer** and **H.C. Loc** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Little Guido** & **Sal E. Graziano** beat **Tom Marquez** & **H.C. Loc** ... **Nova** & **David Cash** defeated **The Dup Brothers** ... **Spike Dudley** beat **Simon Diamond** ... **Danny Doring** & **Amish Roadkill** defeated **Vito Lograsso** & **Spanish Angel** ... **Jazz** beat **Miss Congeniality** ... **Sabu** defeated **P.N. News**.
(10-16-99)

—Gary Marple

MICHIGAN

PLYMOUTH—ECW at the Compuware Sports Arena: **Danny Doring** & **Amish Roadkill** defeated **Nova** & **Jazz** ... **Spike Dudley** beat **Little Guido** ... World champion **Mike Awesome** defeated **Rhino** ... **Jerry Lynn** beat **Super Crazy** ... **Lance Storm** defeated **Chris Candido** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Tommy Dreamer** ... **Bill Wyles** & **C.W. Anderson** wrestled **Vito Lograsso** & **Spanish Angel** to a no-contest ... **New Jack** beat **Spanish Angel** ... TV champ **Rob Van Dam** defeated **Rod Price** ... **Sabu** beat **Taz**.
(09-24-99)

—Dominick Valenti

(Continued on page 80)

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arena reports

(Continued from page 79)

GRAND RAPIDS—ECW at the Welsh Auditorium: **Danny Doring, Amish Roadkill, & Miss Congeniality** defeated **Nova & Jazz** ... **Axl Rotten & Mahoney** defeated **C.W. Anderson & Bill Wyles** ... **Super Crazy** defeated **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... World champion **Mike Awesome** defeated **David Cash** ... **Tony DeVito & Rod Price** wrestled **Vito Lograsso & Spanish Angel** to a no-contest ... **Spike Dudley** defeated **Sal E. Graziano** ... **Lance Storm** and **Jerry Lynn** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Sabu** beat **Johnny Smith** ... World tag team champs **Raven & Tommy Dreamer** defeated **Jack Victory & Steve Corino**.
(09-23-99)

—Dominick Valenti

MISSOURI

KANSAS CITY—Renegades of Wrestling at Beaumont's: **Tom Jones** beat **Jammer** ... **Big Hoss** beat **Mystic Warrior** ... **Mr. Wrestling III** beat **Militia Man** ... **Beautiful Bobby** beat **Little Kato** ... **Brutal Assassin** beat **Doink** ... **Bart & Brad Batten** beat **Hott Property**.
(10-08-99)

—Brett Wolfe

GIRARDEAU—Midwest Renegade Wrestling at the National Guard Armory: **Makaze** beat **Mike Sharonna** ... **The Jacques** defeated **Keith Smith** ... **Myasheeba** defeated **Kevin Sharp** ... **Ty Dalton & Deno Blade** defeated **The Blaze Brothers** ... **Madman Pondo** won a three-way match against **Harry Palmer** and **Psycho Kid** ... **Big Bad Ben** beat **One Man Gang** ... Heavyweight champ **2 Tuff Tony** beat **Pete Madden** in a falls-count-anywhere match.
(09-25-99)

—Jeremy Medeiros

NEW JERSEY

MANTUA—Combat Zone Wrestling at the CZW Arena: **Jon Dahmer** defeated **Big Slam** ... **Trent Acid** wrestled **White Lotus** to a draw ... **Trent Acid & White Lotus** defeated **The Kashmireno Brothers** ... Junior heavyweight champion **Rick Blade** wrestled **Nick Gage** to a no-contest ... **T.C.K.** defeated **Middknight** ... **Zandig** wrestled **W. Beater** to a draw in a first-blood match when the referee saw both men bleeding at the same time ... Interpromotional hardcore champion **Lobo** defeated iron man champion **Justice Pain** for the title in a cage match.
(10-16-99)

—Arnold Wilmont

PAULSBORO—NMW at St. John's School: **Dave Misterio** pinned **The Sensational One** to win the cruiserweight title ... **Primo Robbie Marino** beat **Billy Baja** ... **The Gentleman's Club** beat **Trent Acid & Billy Reil** and **Corky & Mr. Flawless** to win the tag title ... **Jammer** wrestled **Patty O'Brien** to a double-countout ... **Twiggy Ramirez** pinned **Johnny Kashmir** ... **Big Slam** pinned **Patch** to win the heavyweight title.
(10-12-99)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

NUTLEY—Independent Wrestling Federation at the Recreational Building: **Flash Wheeler** pinned **Don Montoya** ... **C.J. Summers** beat **Ryan Wing** ... **Inferno Kid** defeated **Biggie Biggs** ... Americas champion **Kevin Knight** beat **Twiggy Ramirez** in a ladder match ... **Twiggy Ramirez** won a 15-man rampage rumble to win an immediate shot against **Rik Ratchet** for the heavyweight title ... **Twiggy Ramirez** beat **Rik Ratchet** for the heavyweight title.
(10-09-99)

—Dorothy Sultana

NEW YORK

STATEN ISLAND—USA Wrestling at the Sports Festival: **Masked Maniac** beat **Ken Sweeney** ... **Danger** defeated **Nick Maddox** ... **Cousin Luke** beat **Bad Boys I & II** in a handicap match ... **Thunderbolt** defeated **Nikolai Volkoff** by disqualification ... **Sgt. Slaughter** beat **Bob Backlund** ... **Chris Michaels** defeated **Jack Savage** ... **Dick Dudley** beat **Filthy Creep** ... **Tommy Cairo** defeated **Equalizer** ... **The Bushwhackers** beat **Da Bums** ... **King Kong Bundy** defeated **Jimmy Snuka**.
(10-16-99)

—Brett Schwan & Mark Ross

NORTH CAROLINA

ASHEVILLE—ECW at the Civic Center: **P.N. News & Rod Price** beat **Bo & Jack Dup** ... **Danny Doring & Amish Roadkill** defeated **C.W. Anderson & Bill Wiles** ... **Nova** beat **Little Guido** and **Simon Diamond** in a three-way match ... **David Cash** and **Tom Marquez** fought to a no-contest ... **Axl Rotten, Mahoney, & New Jack** beat **Vito Lograsso, Tony DeVito, & Spanish Angel** ... **Spike Dudley** defeated **Lance Storm** ... World heavyweight champion **Mike Awesome** beat **Johnny Smith** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** defeated **Tommy Dreamer** ... **Sabu** beat **Justin Credible**.
(10-01-99)

—Keith Rune

CHARLOTTE—NWA 51st anniversary show at the Grady Cole Center: ***In a tag team tournament to determine challengers for the NWA tag team belts, first round:*** **Triple X** beat **The Sex Pistols** ... **Team Extreme** defeated **Gene Austin & Tony Starr** ... **Samu & Quinn Magnum** wrestled **Michelle Starr & Crusher Carlson** to a double-disqualification ... ***Finals:*** **Team Extreme** beat **Triple X** ... ***In other matches:*** **Team Extreme** defeated NWA tag team champions **Knuckles Nelson & Dukes Dalton** to capture the title ... **E.Z. Ryder** pinned **Sebastian Sterling** ... **Gary Steele** defeated **Brian Anthony** and NWA heavyweight champion **Naoya Ogawa** in a three-way match to win the title ... **Abdullah the Butcher** wrestled **Big Don Brody** to a no-contest ... **Twiggy Ramirez** won an 11-man free-for-all to determine a challenger for the junior heavyweight title ... Junior heavyweight champ **Logan Caine** pinned **Twiggy Ramirez** ... **Ronnie Garvin** defeated **Stan Lane** in a legends match (**Tommy Young** served as the special guest referee).
(09-25-99)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

OHIO

CENTERVILLE—Heartland Wrestling Association at the Sports Town Indoor Soccer Arena: **Mad Anthony McMurphy** defeated **Bobby Cassanova** (with **G.Q. Masters III**) by disqualification ... **Race Steele** beat **The Xtremist** ... **Matt Stryker & Nigel McGuiness** defeated **Chad Collyer & Kingdom James** ... Cruiserweight champion **Todd Morton** defeated **Terik the Great** ... **Cody Hawk & Mad Anthony McMurphy** beat **Bull Pain & Alexis Machine** by disqualification.
(10-09-99)

—Brady Laber

OKLAHOMA

TULSA—Oklahoma Pro Wrestling at the OPW Arena: **Splash Jackson** beat **The Shadows of Death** in a handicap match ... **Chief Red Eagle & Scott Summers** defeated **Ian St. James & Kid Flash** ... **Rocco Valentino** beat **Brandon Groom** ... Tag team champions **Malice & Shrapnel** beat **Zane Morris & Tarantula** ... **Nighthawk** defeated **Renegade** by disqualification ... OPW champ **Big Daddy Moore** beat **The Masked Commando**.
(10-16-99)

—Keith Walker

OKLAHOMA CITY—WCW at the Myriad: **Prince Iaukea** beat **Evan Karagias** ... **Hector Garza & Silver King** beat **Villano IV & Villano V** ... **Perry Saturn** beat **Jerry Flynn** by disqualification ... **Perry Saturn, Chris Benoit, & Dean Malenko** defeated **Jerry Flynn, Brian Knobs, & Hugh Morrus** ... **Buff Bagwell** beat **Berlyn** by disqualification ... World tag team champions **Harlem Heat** beat **Kendall Windham & Curly Bill** ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated U.S. champion **Sid Vicious** by disqualification.
(10-03-99)

—Bill Nelson

PENNSYLVANIA

MOUNT WASHINGTON—Steel City Wrestling's annual "Brawl At Sullivan Hall" church benefit show: **Super Hentai** pinned **Vince Viper** ... **Shawn Adams** pinned **Skull** ... **Mr. Insanity** defeated **The Rogue** and **Dennis Gregory** in a three-way dance ... **Mini P.O.D.** pinned **Little Chucky** ... **Seth James** pinned **Mason Hunter** ... **Dynamite Dean** defeated **Big Neal the Real Deal** ... **Bigg Playa** pinned **Jeff Cannon** ... **T. Rantula** beat **Tom Brandi** by disqualification ... **Whatkind** beat **Drew Lazario** in an intergender match ... **Preston Steele** pinned **Cody Michaels** ... **Shirley Doe & La Porca** defeated **Mad Dogg Tony & Vinny the Mutt** ... **Madd Dogg Tony** pinned **Shirley Doe** in an impromptu match.
(10-09-99)

—Jeff Gorman

RHODE ISLAND

PAWTUCKET—Unified Championship Wrestling at the Barton Street Community Center: **Luis Vega** beat **Eric Storm** ... **Billy Black** defeated **Vertebreaker** ... **Syck & Twysted** beat **Southern Discomfort, Mind Over Matter**, and **Dan Bidondi & Steve Taylor** in a four-corners match to win the tag team title ... **Mr. Biggs** defeated **The Demonizer** ... **Derrick Destiny** beat cruiserweight champion **Draven** by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion **Ebony Blade** defeated **Burt Centeno**.
(10-15-99)

—Anthony Rufo

SOUTH CAROLINA

GREER—Southern Carolina Wrestling at the

Sports Arena: **Amos Jones** beat **Jeff Hart** ... **Scotty Wren** defeated **Scar Stevens** ... **J.C. Dazz** & **Mike Pain** beat **Diamond Donovan** & **David Cruise** ... **Buddy Rose Jr.** beat **Red Dog** ... **The Scorpion** & **The Destroyer** defeated **Dr. Feelgood** & **Johnny Reno** ... **Steve Stampede** beat **Wren Shaw**.
(10-05-99)

—Dan Parris

ROCK HILL—ECW at Winthrop Coliseum: **Rod Price** & **P.N. News** beat **Bo** & **Jack Dup** ... **Danny Doring** & **Amish Roadkill** beat **C.W. Anderson** & **Bill Wyles** ... **Nova** defeated **Simon Diamond** and **Little Guido** in a three-way match ... **Lance Storm** beat **Spike Dudley** ... **Tom Marquez** and **David Cash** fought to a no-contest ... **New Jack, Axl Rotten,** & **Mahoney** beat **Vito Lograsso, Spanish Angel,** & **Tony DeVito** ... World heavyweight champion **Mike Awesome** beat **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** defeated **Johnny Smith** ... **Steve Corino** beat **Tommy Dreamer** ... **Sabu** defeated **Justin Credible**.
(10-02-99)

—Rick Traken

TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS—Power Pro Wrestling TV taping at WMC-TV studios: **Wolfie D** and **Jim Cornette** wrestled to a no-contest ... **Derrick King** defeated **Robbie D** ... **Kid Wikkid** beat **Tony Falk** by disqualification ... **Bulldog Raines, Alan Steele,** & **Ali Stevens** beat **Mic Tierney, Glen Kulka,** & **Steve Bradley** ... **Doug Gilbert** and **Brian Christopher** wrestled to a no-contest.
(10-16-99)

—Ken Norwood

DYERSBURG—NWA Warriors of Wrestling at Warriors Arena: **Naughty By Nature** beat **Joey Venture** by disqualification ... **Mr. Showtime** beat **Gunner Thompson** ... Mid-South junior heavyweight champion **Pokerface** defeated **Johnny Gunn** ... **Ricky Murdoch** beat **Kip Morris** ... Mid-South tag team champions **Moondog Rover** & **Tim White** defeated **Naughty By Nature** & **Joey Venture** ... Mid-South heavyweight champion **Blade Boudreaux** beat **Big Nasty Bill**.
(10-08-99)

—Alvin J. Minnick

JOHNSON CITY—Southern States Wrestling at the Carver Rec Center: **Memphis Bodyguards II** & **III** beat **Bam Bam Christian** & **Steve Flynn** ... **Chuck Jones** beat **Ricky Harrison** ... **P.J. Sharp** pinned **Beau James** ... **War Machine** won a jeopardy match and is thus the new heavyweight champion ... **Ricky Harrison** beat **Billy Joe Travis** ... **Death and Destruction** beat **Slammin' Sam** & **Joe Fillers** ... **Beau James** & **Steve Flynn** beat **Death and Destruction** by countout.
(10-07-99)

—Fay Ferguson & Michael J. DiMuzio

TEXAS

HALTOM CITY—Texas Championship Wrestling at the Haltom City Roller Rink: **Coach** beat **Nero** ... **Jeremy Young** defeated **Sammy Sweetan** ... **Luminous** beat **Mace** & **Hellhammer** in a handicap match ... **Larry Green** defeated **The Beast of Burden** by disqualification ... **Joey Corman** beat **Junshi Kyoki, Samir,** and **Ryder** in a four-way match ... **Redd Dogg** and **Tejas** wrestled to a no-contest.
(09-18-99)

—Tom Caiazzo

WEST VIRGINIA

SHINNSTON—Mason Dixon Wrestling at the School Square: Heavyweight champion **Jamie Harris** wrestled **Bob Brown** to a double-disqualification ... Tri-state champion **Punchy McGee** beat **Chick Scott** ... **Mason Hunter** beat **Scotty Blaze, Lance Malinowski,** and **Bob Brown** in a four-way match ... Tag team champions **The Thrillbillies** beat **Flemmo Guano** & **The Southern Brawler** ... Lightweight champion **The Latin Tornado** beat **The Bounty Hunter**.
(10-17-99)

—Mark Mills

MARTINSBURG—ATCW at the Berkeley County Multi Purpose Center: **Cool Joe Brock** beat **Earl the Pearl** ... **NBC** defeated **Chad Austin** & **Sy Johnson** ... **Nick Fury** & **Ramblin' Rich** beat **Dino Divine** & **Jimmy Cicero** ... **Morgus the Maniac** pinned **Dino Divine** ... **Don Rott** beat **Tommy Idol** ... **Dan Severn** pinned **Patch** to capture the heavyweight title.
(10-15-99)

—Michael J. DiMuzio

INTERNATIONAL

CANADA

QUEBEC CITY, QUEBEC—NCW at the *Centre des Loisirs St-Esprit:* Quebec champ **Piranah** beat **Marc the Grizzly** ... **Eric Shelley** beat Intercity champ **Steven The Sweet Boy** ... **Michael Reaper** & **Steve Rush** beat **Blaze** & **Jackal** ... **Franky the Mobster** beat **TNT** ... **Jaxson Viper** & **J.F. McAllister** defeated **Chavez** & **Nightstalker** ... TV champion **El Diablero Jr.** defeated **Mark Male** ... **Deadly Venumm** beat **Dream Killer** & **Mad Dog Reaper** ... **Dennis Sensation** beat **Todd Hiroshima** ... **Rush** pinned **Rocky Thompson**.
(10-16-99)

—Bertrand Hebert

CLOVERDALE, BRITISH COLUMBIA—International Championship Wrestling at the Fairgrounds Products Building: ***Tournament matches to crown new ICW tag team champions, first round:*** **Chico Alverez** & **Sumito the Samoan Crippler** beat **Bob Hawthorn** and **Nickie Sixx** ... **Layne Fontaine** & **Fabulous Fabio** defeated **Kung Fu Ed** & **Fender Gibson** ... **Randy Taylor** & **Stoney Edwards** beat **Punk Rock Prodigy** & **Tank** ... **Marvin the Lunatic** & **The Chef** defeated **Ivan Drako** in a handicap match ... **Ken Johnson** & **Ken Riley** beat **Shooter Da Clown** & **Heckles** ... **Craig Corrosion** & **Avalanche** defeated **Line Drive** & **Louis Slugger** ... ***Non-tournament matches:*** **Rick Richards** beat **The Machine** ... **Kid Flash** defeated **Jay Wonder** and **Lady Viagra** in an intergender three-way match ... ***Second-round matches:*** **Chico Alvarez** & **Sumito the Samoan Crippler** beat **Layne Fontaine** & **Fabulous Fabio** ... **Marvin the Lunatic** & **The Chef** beat **Randy Taylor** & **Stoney Edwards** ... **Ken Johnson** & **Ken Riley** defeated **Craig Corrosion** & **Avalanche** ... ***Semifinal match:*** **Ken Johnson** beat **Marvin the Lunatic** & **The Chef** in a handicap match ... ***Finals:*** **Ken Johnson** & **Buddy Wayne** defeated **Chico Alvarez** & **Sumito the Samoan Crippler** to win the vacant tag team title ... **Mr. GQ** beat **Tim Flowers** in a hardcore match to become the new heavyweight champion.
(09-28-99)

—Arnold Crey

JAPAN

TOKYO—All-Japan at Korakuen Hall: **Yoshinobu Kanemaru** defeated **Masamichi Marufuji** ... **Masahito Kakihara** beat **Takeshi Morishima** ... **Satoru Asako, Mitsuo Momota,** & **Rusher Kimura** defeated **Makoto Hashi, Tsuyoshi Kikuchi,** & **Hiraku Eigen** ... **Masao Inoue** & **Tamon Honda** beat **Maunukea Mossman** & **Johnny Smith** ... **Jinsei Shinzaki, Yoshinara Ogawa,** & **Mitsuharu Misawa** defeated **Uganda, Mike Burton,** & **Johnny Ace** ... **Stan Hansen** & **Gary Albright** beat **Jun Izumida** & **Akira Taue** ... **Masa Fuchi, Yoshihiro Takayama,** & **Takao Omori** defeated **Kenta Kobashi, Jun Akiyama,** & **Kentaro Shiga**.
(10-09-99)

—Koichi Yoshizawa

MEXICO

MEXICO CITY—EMLL at Arena Coliseo: **El Pegasso** & **Johnny Boyd** beat **Fiero** & **Amenaza Negra** ... **Marcela** & **Flor Metalica** defeated **Amapola** & **La Diabolica** ... **Super Cacao, Virus,** & **Rencor Latino** beat **Tigre Blanco, Torero,** & **Angel Azteca** ... **Dr. Wagner Jr., Black Warrior, Pierroth Jr.,** & **Mr. Mexico** defeated **Ringo Mendoza, Antifaz del Norte,** & **Gigante Silva** ... **Astro Rey** beat **Valentin Mayo**.
(10-12-99)

—Luis Tomengo

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
MARCH

NEW YORK

NEW YORK—WWWF at Madison Square Garden: **Pampero Firpo** defeated **Ben Justice** ... **Joe Nova** and **Jimmy Valiant** wrestled to a draw ... **Toru Tanaka** beat **Rene Goulet** ... **Ernie Ladd** and **Sonny King** wrestled to a draw ... **King Curtis Iaukea** defeated **Gorilla Monsoon** ... **Jay Strongbow** & **Victor Rivera** beat **The Russians** ... **Bruno Sammartino** defeated **Smasher Sloan** ... **Pedro Morales** beat **Baron Mikel Scicluna**.
(03-13-72)

—PWI archives

NEW YORK—WWF at Madison Square Garden: **Tony Garea** & **Rick Martel** beat **Charlie Fulton** & **The Masked Executioner** ... **Pat Patterson** defeated **Lou Albano** ... **Fabulous Moolah** & **Wendi Richter** beat **Velvet McIntyre** & **Princess Victoria** ... **Steve Travis** defeated **Jose Estrada** ... **Greg Valentine** beat **S.D. Jones** ... **Andre the Giant** & **Rick McGraw** beat World tag team champions **Mr. Fuji** & **Mr. Saito** by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion **Pedro Morales** defeated **Adrian Adonis** ... World champion **Bob Backlund** beat **Jesse Ventura**.
(03-14-82)

—PWI archives

CANADA

MONTREAL, QUEBEC—Professional wrestling at the St. Jean Baptiste Club: **John** & **Chris Tolos** defeated **Carlo Milano** & **Pete Sanchez** ... **Tom Collins** wrestled **Claude St. Jean** to a draw ... **Jim Hady** beat **Tom Collins** ... **Johnny Rougeau** defeated **Gene Sebastien** ... **Edouard Carpentier** beat **The Great Malenko**.
(03-22-62)

—PWI archives

ECW GUILTY AS CHARGED (Kissimmee, FL, Millennium Theater): **Axl Rotten** & **Mahoney** defeated **The Full-Blooded Italians** and **Danny Doring** & **Amish Roadkill** in a three-way dance ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** defeated **Super Crazy** ... **Sid Vicious** pinned **John Kronus** ... **Buh Buh Ray** & **D-Von Dudley** defeated **New Jack** & **Spike Dudley** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** beat **Lance Storm** ... **Justin Credible** beat **Tommy Dreamer** in a "Stairway To Hell" match after **Terry Funk** hit Dreamer with a trash can ... **Taz** defeated heavyweight champion **Shane Douglas** to win the title.
(January 10)

WCW SOULED OUT (Charleston, WV, Civic Center): **Chris Benoit** defeated **Mike Enos** by submission ... **Norman Smiley** defeated **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** by submission ... **Dave "Fit" Finlay** pinned **Van Hammer** (substituting for **Steve McMichael**) ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **Wrath** ... **Lex Luger** defeated **Konnan** by submission after **Elizabeth** interfered ... **Chris Jericho** pinned **Perry Saturn**. As the result of a prematch stipulation, for the next 90 days, Saturn had to wear a dress when he wrestled ... Cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** defeated **Psicosis**, **Rey Misterio Jr.**, and **Juventud Guerrera** in a four-way match when he pinned Guerrera ... **David** & **Ric Flair** defeated **Curt Hennig** & **Barry Windham** when David pinned Hennig after **Arn Anderson** struck Hennig with a tire iron ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Scott Hall** in a ladder/taser match.
(January 17)

WWF ROYAL RUMBLE (Anaheim, CA, Arrowhead Pond): **Big Bossman** pinned hardcore champion **Jesse James** in a non-title match ... Intercontinental champion **Ken Shamrock** beat **Billy Gunn** by submission ... European champion **X-Pac** pinned **Gangrel** ... Women's champion **Sable** defeated **Luna Vachon** in a strap match ... **The Rock** defeated World champ **Mankind** in an "I Quit" match to win the title ... **Vince McMahon** won the 30-person Royal Rumble, last eliminating **Steve Austin**.
(January 24)

WWF ST. VALENTINE'S DAY MASSACRE (Memphis, TN, Pyramid): **Goldust** pinned **The Blue Meanie** ... **Bob Holly** pinned **Al Snow** to win the vacant hardcore title ... **Big Bossman** pinned **Midian** ... World tag team champions **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** (with **Debra**) defeated **D-Lo Brown** & **Mark Henry** (with **Ivory**) ... **Val Venis** (with **Ryan Shamrock**) pinned Intercontinental champion **Ken Shamrock** for the title when guest referee **Billy Gunn** made a fast count on Shamrock ... **Chyna** & **Kane** defeated **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** & **X-Pac** when Chyna pinned Helmsley after Kane choke-slammed him ... World champion **Mankind** wrestled to a draw with **The Rock** in a "last man standing" match when neither could answer a 10-count; both were taken away by ambulance after the match ... **"Stone-Cold" Steve Austin** defeated **Vince McMahon** in a steel cage match and thus retained the right to wrestle for the World title at WrestleMania XV.
(February 14)

WCW SUPERBRAWL (Oakland, CA, Alameda County Coliseum): **Booker T** pinned **Disco Inferno** ... **Chris Jericho** defeated **Perry Saturn** by countout ... Cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** pinned **Chavo Guerrero Jr.** ... **Chris Benoit** & **Dean Malenko** defeated **Curt Hennig** & **Barry Windham** in a World tag team tournament match. Since this was only the first loss for Hennig & Windham in the double-elimination tournament, they had a second match immediately afterward. Hennig & Windham won the vacant tag team title when Windham pinned Malenko ... **Kevin Nash** & **Scott Hall** (substituting for **Lex Luger**) defeated **Rey Misterio Jr.** & **Konnan**. As the result of a prematch stipulation, Misterio had to unmask ... TV champion **Scott Steiner** defeated **"Diamond" Dallas Page** when Page passed out while caught in the Steiner recliner ... **Scott Hall** pinned U.S. champion **Roddy Piper** to win the belt ... **Bill Goldberg** pinned **Bam Bam Bigelow** ... World champion **Hollywood Hogan** pinned **Ric Flair** after **David Flair** stunned his father with a taser.
(February 21)

WCW UNCENSORED (Louisville, KY, Freedom Hall): Cruiserweight champion **Billy Kidman** pinned **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **Stevie Ray** pinned **Vince** in a Harlem streetfight to win control of the NWO black and white after **Horace Hogan** interfered ... **Kevin Nash** pinned **Rey Misterio Jr.** after **Lex Luger** interfered ... **Jerry Flynn** defeated **Ernest Miller** & **Sonny Ono** in a handicap match ... **Hak** defeated **Bam Bam Bigelow** and **Raven** in a three-way hardcore match ... **Chris Benoit** & **Dean Malenko** defeated World tag team champions **Curt Hennig** & **Barry Windham** for the belts in a lumberjack match ... **Perry Saturn** pinned **Chris Jericho** in a dog-collar match ... **Booker T** pinned TV champion **Scott Steiner** for the belt after **Buff Bagwell's** interference backfired ... **Ric Flair** defeated World champion **Hollywood Hogan** for the belt; due to a prematch stipulation, he also became president of WCW.
(March 14)

ECW LIVING DANGEROUSLY (Asbury Park, NJ, Convention Center): **Amish Roadkill** & **Danny Doring** beat **Chris Chetti** & **Nova** ... **Super Crazy** defeated **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... **Mahoney** beat **Steve Corino** ... **Little Guido** beat **Antifaz del Norte** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** pinned **Jerry Lynn** ... **New Jack** pinned **Mr. Mustafa** ... **Spike Dudley** & **Nova** defeated **Buh Buh Ray** & **D-Von Dudley** ... **Shane Douglas** & **Tommy Dreamer** defeated **Justin Credible** & **Lance Storm** ... Heavyweight champion **Taz** beat **Sabu**.
(March 21)

WWF WRESTLEMANIA (Philadelphia, PA, First Union Center): **Bob Holly** beat **Al Snow** and hardcore champion **Billy Gunn** in a triple threat match for the belt when he pinned Snow ... World tag team champions **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **D-Lo Brown** & **Test** when Jarrett pinned Brown ... **Butterbean** knocked out **Bart Gunn** in a "Brawl For All" match ... **Mankind** defeated **Paul Wight** by disqualification ... Intercontinental champion **Jesse James** defeated **Goldust**, **Ken Shamrock**, and **Val Venis** in a four-corner elimination match. Order of elimination: Shamrock and Venis by countout; James pinned Goldust ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** defeated **Kane** by disqualification when **Chyna** interfered ... Women's champion **Sable** pinned **Tori** after **Nicole Bass** interfered ... European champion **Shane McMahon** pinned **X-Pac** when **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** interfered ... **The Undertaker** pinned **Big Bossman** in a "Hell In A Cell" match ... **Steve Austin** pinned World champion **The Rock** for the title.
(March 28)

WCW SPRING STAMPEDE (Tacoma, WA, Tacoma Dome): **Juventud Guerrera** pinned **Blitzkrieg** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** pinned **Hak** ... **Scotty Riggs** pinned **Mikey Whipwreck** ... **Konnan** defeated **Disco Inferno** ... Cruiserweight champion **Rey Misterio Jr.** pinned **Billy Kidman** ... **Chris Benoit** & **Dean Malenko** defeated **Perry Saturn** & **Raven** when Malenko pinned Raven ... **Scott Steiner** pinned **Booker T** in the finals of the U.S. title tournament ... **Bill Goldberg** pinned **Kevin Nash** ... **"Diamond" Dallas Page** defeated World champion **Ric Flair**, **Hollywood Hogan**, and **Sting** in a four-corners match to win the World title when he pinned Flair (**Randy Savage** was the special guest referee).
(April 11)

WWF BACKLASH (Providence, RI, Civic Center): **Bradshaw**, **Faarooq**, & **Midian** defeated **The Brood** when Bradshaw pinned **Christian** ... **Al Snow** beat **Bob Holly** for the hardcore title ... Intercontinental champion **The Godfather** pinned **Goldust** ... **Billy Gunn** & **Jesse James** defeated **Owen Hart** & **Jeff Jarrett** ... **Mankind** defeated **Paul Wight** in a boiler room brawl ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** pinned **X-Pac** ... **The Undertaker** pinned **Ken Shamrock** ... World champion **Steve Austin** pinned **The Rock**.
(April 25)

WCW SLAMBOREE (St. Louis, MO, TWA Dome): **Gorgeous George** defeated **Charles Robinson** in a mixed match ... **Konnan** defeated **Stevie Ray** ... **Bam Bam Bigelow** defeated **Brian Knobs** ... **Perry Saturn** & **Raven** beat World tag team champions **Billy Kidman** & **Rey Misterio Jr.** and **Chris Benoit** & **Dean Malenko** in a three-way match to capture the title ... U.S. champion **Scott Steiner** beat **Buff Bagwell** ... **Rick Steiner** pinned TV champion **Booker T** for the belt ... **Roddy Piper** beat **Ric Flair** by reverse decision ... **Bill Goldberg** wrestled to a no-contest with **Sting** when **Bret Hart** interfered ... **Kevin Nash** pinned World champion **"Diamond" Dallas Page** for the belt.
(May 9)

ECW HARDCORE HEAVEN (Poughkeepsie, NY, Mid-Hudson Civic Center): **Skull Von Crush** beat **Danny Doring** ... Heavyweight champion **Taz** beat **Chris Candido** by submission ... Tag team champions **Buh Buh Ray** & **D-Von Dudley** beat **Spike Dudley** & **Mahoney** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** beat **Little Guido** ... **Super Crazy** defeated **Taka Michinoku** ... **Lance Storm** defeated **Tommy Dreamer** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** pinned **Jerry Lynn** ... **Sid Vicious** beat **Justin Credible** by disqualification ... Heavyweight champion **Taz** beat **Buh Buh Ray Dudley**.
(May 16)

WWF NO MERCY (Manchester, England, MEN Arena): **Tiger Ali Singh** beat **Gillberg** ... **Faarooq**, **Bradshaw**, & **Viscera** beat **The Brood** ... **Steve Blackman** beat **Droz** ... **Kane** defeated **Midian** by disqualification ... **Nicole Bass** beat **Tori** ... **Shane McMahon** beat **X-Pac** ... **Billy Gunn** beat **Mankind** ... World champion **Steve Austin** defeated **The Undertaker** and **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** in a three-way match.
(May 16)

WWF OVER THE EDGE (Kansas City, MO, Kemper Arena): World tag team champs **Kane** & **X-Pac** beat **D-Lo Brown** & **Mark Henry** ... Hardcore champ **Al Snow** beat **Bob Holly** ... **Val Venis** & **Nicole Bass** beat **Jeff Jarrett** & **Debra** in a mixed tag team match ... **Billy Gunn** beat **Jesse James** ... **The Union** (**Mankind**, **Ken Shamrock**, **Paul Wight**, & **Test**) beat **Faarooq**, **Bradshaw**, **Viscera**, & **Big Bossman** in an elimination match ... **The Rock** beat **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** by disqualification ... **The Undertaker** beat World champion **Steve Austin** for the title (**Shane** and **Vince McMahon** were the guest referees).
(May 23)

WCW GREAT AMERICAN BASH (Baltimore, MD, Baltimore Arena): **Hak** beat **Brian Knobs** in a hardcore match ... **Van Hammer** defeated **Mikey**

Whipwreck ... **Buff Bagwell** defeated **Disco Inferno** ... **Rey Misterio Jr.** & **Konnan** beat **Bobby Duncum Jr.** & **Curt Hennig** ... **Ernest Miller** beat **Horace Hogan** (substituting for **Scott Norton**) ... **Ric Flair** beat **Roddy Piper** by disqualification ... TV champion **Rick Steiner** defeated **Sting** in a no-disqualification, falls-count-anywhere match ... **Dallas Page** & **Kanyon** beat World tag team champions **Chris Benoit** & **Perry Saturn** for the belts after **Bam Bam Bigelow** interfered ... World champion **Kevin Nash** beat **Randy Savage** by disqualification after **Sid Vicious** interfered.
(June 13)

WWF KING OF THE RING (Greensboro, NC, Coliseum): ***King of the Ring tournament, quarterfinal matches:*** **X-Pac** beat **Bob Holly** by disqualification ... **Billy Gunn** beat **Ken Shamrock** ... **Kane** beat **"Big Show" Paul Wight** ... **"Road Dogg" Jesse James** beat **Chyna** ... ***Non-tournament match:*** **Jeff** & **Matt Hardy** defeated **Christian** & **Edge** ... ***KOTR semifinal matches:*** Gunn beat Kane ... X-Pac beat James ... ***Finals:*** Gunn beat X-Pac to win the tournament ... World champion **The Undertaker** pinned **The Rock** ... **Shane** & **Vince McMahon** beat **Steve Austin** in a handicap ladder match. As the result of a prematch stipulation, Austin had to relinquish his position as CEO of the WWF.
(June 27)

WCW BASH AT THE BEACH (Fort Lauderdale, FL, National Car Rental Center): Ernest Miller beat **Disco Inferno** ... TV champion **Rick Steiner** defeated **Van Hammer** ... U.S. champion **David Flair** beat **Dean Malenko** after **Ric Flair** and his entourage interfered ... **Rey Misterio Jr., Konnan, Swoll,** & **Brad Armstrong** beat **Curt Hennig, Bobby Duncum Jr., Barry Windham,** & **Kendall Windham** in an elimination match ... **Dave "Fit" Finlay** won a junkyard hardcore invitational match ... World tag team champions **Dallas Page, Bam Bam Bigelow,** & **Kanyon** beat **Chris Benoit** & **Perry Saturn** ... **Buff Bagwell** beat **Roddy Piper** in a boxing match when special referee **Mills Lane** counted a Bagwell pinfall after Bagwell hit Piper with his blockbuster finisher ... **Randy Savage** & **Sid Vicious** beat **Kevin Nash** & **Sting** when Savage pinned World champion Nash. Because of a special prematch stipulation, Randy Savage became the new World champion.
(July 11)

ECW HEATWAVE (Dayton, OH, Hara Arena): Chris Chetti & **Nova** beat **Danny Doring** & **Amish Roadkill** ... **Jazz** beat **Jason** ... **Super Crazy** defeated **Little Guido** ... **Spike Dudley** & **Mahoney** beat World tag team champions **Buh Buh Ray** & **D-Von Dudley** for the belts in a Dayton streetfight ... World champion **Taz** defeated **Yoshihiro Tajiri** ... **Rob Van Dam** & **Jerry Lynn** beat **Lance Storm** & **Justin Credible**.
(July 18)

WWF FULLY LOADED (Buffalo, NY, Marine Midland Arena): Jeff Jarrett beat Intercontinental champion **Edge** to regain the title ... **The Acolytes** defeated World tag team champions **Matt** & **Jeff Hardy** to win the title ... **D-Lo Brown** defeated European champion **Midian** to win the title ... **Big Bossman** defeated hardcore champion **Al Snow** to win the title ... **Paul Wight** defeated **Kane** ... **Ken Shamrock** defeated **Steve Blackman** in an "Iron Circle" match ... **X-Pac** & **"Road Dogg" Jesse James** defeated **Chyna** & **Billy Gunn** for the rights to **DeGeneration X** ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** defeated **The Rock** in a falls-count-anywhere strap match ... World champion **Steve Austin** defeated **The Undertaker** in a first-blood match.
(July 25)

WCW ROAD WILD (Sturgis, SD, Bike Rally): Rey Misterio Jr., Eddy Guerrero, & **Billy Kidman** beat **The Insane Clown Posse** & **Vampiro** ... **Shane Douglas, Dean Malenko,** & **Perry Saturn** defeated **Curt Hennig, Barry Windham,** & **Bobby Duncum Jr.** ... **Harlem Heat** beat World tag team champions **Bam Bam Bigelow** & **Kanyon** for the belts ... **Buff Bagwell** defeated **Ernest Miller** ... U.S. champion **Chris Benoit** defeated **Dallas Page** ... **Bill Goldberg** beat TV champion **Rick Steiner** in a non-title bout ... **Sid Vicious** defeated **Sting** ... **Randy Savage** beat **Dennis Rodman** ... World champion **Hulk Hogan** defeated **Kevin Nash** in a retirement match.
(August 14)

WWF SUMMERSLAM (Minneapolis, MN, Target Center): Jeff Jarrett (with **Debra**) defeated European/Intercontinental champion **D-Lo Brown** to win both titles ... **The Acolytes** won a Royal Rumble-style tag team turmoil match. ***Order of elimination:*** **Edge** & **Christian** beat **The Hardy Boyz** ... Edge & Christian beat **Midian** & **Viscera** ... Edge & Christian beat **Droz** & **Prince Albert** ... The Acolytes beat Edge & Christian ... The Acolytes beat **Crash** & **Bob Holly** ... **Al Snow** defeated hardcore champion **Big Bossman** to win the title ... Women's champion **Ivory** defeated **Tori** ... **Ken Shamrock** defeated **Steve Blackman** in a "Lion's Den" match ... **Test** beat **Shane McMahon** in a Greenwich streetfight ... **The Rock** beat **Billy Gunn** ... **Mankind** defeated **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** and World champion **Steve Austin** in a triple threat match to win the title when he pinned Austin (**Jesse Ventura** was the special guest referee).
(August 22)

WCW FALL BRAWL (Winston-Salem, NC, Lawrence Joel Coliseum): Billy Kidman, Rey Misterio Jr., & **Eddy Guerrero** defeated **Vampiro** & **The Insane Clown Posse** ... Cruiserweight champion **Lenny Lane** defeated **Kaz Hayashi** ... **Brian Knobs** & **Hugh Morrus** beat **Dean Malenko** & **Shane Douglas** ... TV champion **Rick Steiner** defeated **Perry Saturn** ... **Berlyn** defeated **Hacksaw Duggan** (substituting for **Buff Bagwell**) ... **Harlem Heat** defeated World tag team champs **Barry** & **Kendall Windham** to win the title ... **Sid Vicious** beat U.S. champion **Chris Benoit** to win the title ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Dallas Page** ... **Sting** defeated World champion **Hulk Hogan** to win the title.
(September 12)

ECW ANARCHY RULZ (Villa Park, IL, Odeum Theater): Lance Storm pinned **Jerry Lynn** ... **Simon Diamond** & **Tony DeVito** wrestled **Chris Chetti** & **Nova** to a no-contest ... **Justin Credible** pinned **Sabu** ... **Yoshihiro Tajiri** defeated **Super Crazy** and **Little Guido** in a three-way match ... **Mike Awesome** defeated World champion **Taz** and **Masato Tanaka** in a three-way match to win the title ... World tag team champions **Tommy Dreamer** & **Raven** beat **Steve Corino** & **Rhino** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** pinned **Mahoney**.
(September 19)

WWF UNFORGIVEN (Charlotte, NC, Coliseum): Val Venis beat **Steve Blackman** ... **D-Lo Brown** defeated European champ **Mark Henry** to win the title ... Intercontinental champion **Jeff Jarrett** defeated **Chyna** by reverse decision ... **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** beat **The Dudley Boyz** ... Women's champ **Ivory** defeated **Luna** in a hardcore match ... World tag team champs **Billy Gunn** & **Jesse James** beat **Christian** & **Edge** ... Hardcore champ **Al Snow** defeated **Big Bossman** in a "Kennel From Hell" match ... **Chris Jericho** beat **X-Pac** (substituting for **Ken Shamrock**) by disqualification ... **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** won the six-pack challenge over **Davey Boy Smith, Kane, Mankind, "Big Show" Paul Wight,** and **The Rock** to win the vacant WWF World title when he pinned The Rock.
(September 26)

WWF REBELLION (Birmingham, England, National Indoor Arena): Intercontinental champion **Jeff Jarrett** beat European champ **D-Lo Brown** (Brown's European title was not on the line) ... **The Godfather** defeated **Gangrel** ... **Val Venis** beat **Mark Henry** ... Women's champion **Ivory** beat **Jacquelyn, Luna,** and **Tori** in a four-way match ... **Chris Jericho** beat **"Road Dogg" Jesse James** ... **Chyna** beat Intercontinental champ **Jeff Jarrett** by disqualification ... **Kane** beat **"Big Show" Paul Wight** ... **Davey Boy Smith** beat **X-Pac** ... **Christian** & **Edge** defeated **Bradshaw** & **Faarooq** and **Bob** & **Crash Holly** in a three-way match ... World champion **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **The Rock** in a steel cage match.
(October 2)

HEROES OF WRESTLING (Bay St. Louis, MS, Casino Magic): The Samoan Swat Team beat **Marty Jannetty** & **Tommy Rogers** ... **Greg Valentine** pinned **George "The Animal" Steele** (with **Sherri Martel**) ... **2 Cold Scorpio** beat **Julio Fantastico** ... **Luke Williams** & **Butch Miller** beat **The Iron Sheik** & **Nikolai Volkoff** ... **Tully Blanchard** pinned **Stan Lane** ... **Abdullah the Butcher** wrestled **One Man Gang** to a double-disqualification ... **Jimmy Snuka** beat **"Cowboy" Bob Orton** ... **Jake "The Snake" Roberts** wrestled **Jim Neidhart** to a no-contest ... **King Kong Bundy** & **Jim Neidhart** beat **Jake Roberts** & **Yokozuna**.
(October 10)

WWF NO MERCY (Cleveland, OH, Gund Arena): The Godfather beat **Midian** ... **Fabulous Moolah** defeated women's champion **Ivory** to win the title ... **Crash** & **Bob Holly** beat **Jesse James** & **Billy Gunn** by disqualification ... **Matt** & **Jeff Hardy** beat **Christian** & **Edge** in the fifth and deciding match of the Terri Invitational Tournament. For winning the tournament, the Hardys received $100,000 and the managerial services of **Terri Runnels** ... **The Rock** defeated **"British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith** ... **Chyna** beat Intercontinental champion **Jeff Jarrett** to win the title ... **Val Venis** defeated **Mankind** ... **X-Pac** beat **Faarooq, Kane,** and **Bradshaw** in a four-corners match ... World champion **Hunter Hearst Helmsley** beat **Steve Austin**.
(October 17)

WCW HALLOWEEN HAVOC (Las Vegas, NV, MGM Grand Garden Arena): Cruiserweight champ **Disco Inferno** beat **Lash LeRoux** ... **Harlem Heat** defeated **Hugh Morrus** & **Brian Knobs** and **Billy Kidman** & **Konnan** in a three-way match to win the vacant World tag team title after Konnan & **Rey Misterio Jr.** were stripped of the title because Misterio could not defend the title due to a leg injury ... **Eddy Guerrero** beat **Perry Saturn** by disqualification ... **Brad Armstrong** beat **Berlyn** ... **Rick Steiner** defeated TV champion **Chris Benoit** to win the title ... **Lex Luger** beat **Bret Hart** ... World champion **Sting** defeated **Hulk Hogan** ... **Bill Goldberg** defeated **Sid Vicious** to win the U.S. title ... **Dallas Page** beat **Ric Flair** ... U.S. champion **Bill Goldberg** defeated World champ **Sting** in a non-title match.
(October 24)

ECW NOVEMBER TO REMEMBER (Buffalo, NY, Burt Flickenger Center): Spike Dudley defeated **Simon Diamond** ... **Little Guido** beat **Nova** ... **Jerry Lynn** defeated **Yoshihiro Tajiri** and **Super Crazy** in a three-way match ... **Sabu** beat **Chris Candido** ... World champion **Mike Awesome** defeated **Masato Tanaka** ... **Vito Lograsso, Tony DeVito, P.N. News,** & **Spanish Angel** beat **New Jack, Axl Rotten,** & **Mahoney** ... TV champion **Rob Van Dam** defeated **Taz** ... **Justin Credible, Lance Storm,** & **Rhino** beat **The Sandman, Raven,** & **Tommy Dreamer**.
(November 7)

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ringside

(Continued from page 9)

"Hey, I've got no problem with the VIP," Valentino said. "They're my family. Look, I'm hanging out with **The Great Bolo** and **Heather Savage** right now. You're just trying to find a story where there is no story. Why don't you just get lost."

Bert Prentice and **Bill Behrens** have sold NWA Worldwide (Music City Wrestling) to a prominent Memphis-based advertising agency. According to Behrens, he and Prentice will remain with the promotion, and it will still be governed under the auspices of the NWA ... Ever since Thunder Wrestling Federation Commissioner **Jamie Love** declared all four TWF titles vacant, the promotion has been in a state of disarray. Most of the wrestlers expect President **Austin Michaels** to restore order, but as of press time, nobody had been able to find him ... The East Coast Wrestling Association crowned two new champions on a recent card. **J.J. the Ring Crew Guy** defeated **Ground Zero** to win the vacant heavyweight title, and **Ty Street** defeated **Vincent Goodnight** to win the Mid-Atlantic title.

When **The Baldies—Vito Lograsso**, **Spanish Angel**, and **Tony DeVito**—used a staple gun to incapacitate **New Jack** at a recent card, the group showed it will resort to the most vile of tactics to make a name for itself. Needless to say, it worked. The Baldies are now considered by some fans to be the most despicable and wretched group of individuals ever assembled in ECW. When I confronted Lograsso about the group's actions, he acted as if he and his buddies were perfectly justified.

It's hard to believe that ECWA promoter Jim Kettner didn't see the potential in J.J. the Ring Crew Guy years ago. It's also hard to believe Kettner still makes J.J., his new ECWA heavyweight champ, work with the ring crew.

"Shut your mouth, punk," Lograsso said. "What gives you the right to question what my friends and I do? Besides, you've seen what New Jack's done over the years. We're just getting to him before he gets to us. Is there anything wrong with that?"

Well, Vito, call me crazy, but, yes, I do think there is something wrong with using a staple gun on someone's head.

That about does it for me this month. So until next issue, look for me at ringside. □

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PWI SUPERSTATS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS:

PAST WINNERS

This is a complete listing of all *PWI* Achievement Award winners. We've also provided a comprehensive listing of runners-up (which were first reported in 1976) for all awards. Award winners were first presented annually in the pages of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED effective with our March 1982 issue. Prior to that, awards appeared in *Sports Review Wrestling* (1980 awards in the March 1981 edition), *Sports Review Wrestling Annual* (1977-79 awards in Spring 1978, '79, and '80 editions), and *Victory Sports Series Wrestling Annual* and *Yearbook* editions (1972-76 awards in issues #4, 7, 11, 14, and 18).

WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1998: Steve Austin
Runners-up: 1—Bill Goldberg, 2—Dallas Page, 3—Rocky Maivia

1997: Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Steve Austin, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Dallas Page

1996: The Giant
Runners-up: 1—Shawn Michaels, 2—Ric Flair, 3—Ahmed Johnson

1995: Diesel
Runners-up: 1—Shawn Michael, 2—Sting, 3—Hulk Hogan

1994: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Bret Hart, 2—Razor Ramon, 3—Ric Flair

1993: Big Van Vader
Runners-up: 1—Bret Hart, 2—Shawn Michaels, 3—Yokozuna

1992: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Ron Simmons, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Bret Hart

1991: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Lex Luger, 2—Bret Hart, 3—Sting

1990: Sting
Runners-up: 1—Ultimate Warrior, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Lex Luger

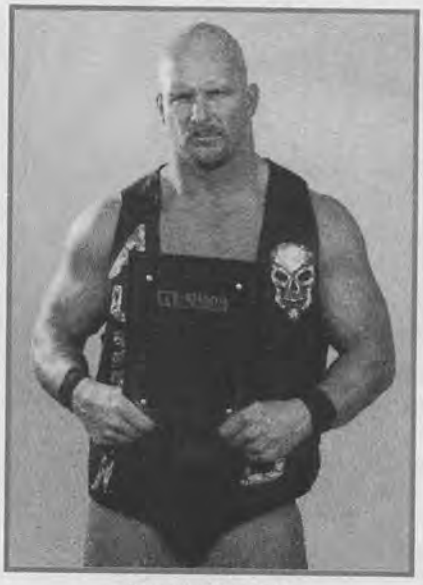
1989: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Rick Steamboat

1988: Randy Savage
Runners-up: 1—Jerry Lawler, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Ric Flair

1987: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Steve Williams

1986: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Nikita Koloff

1985: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Rick Martel, 3—Sgt. Slaughter



Steve Austin: 1998

1984: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Rick Martel

1983: Harley Race
Runners-up: 1—Nick Bockwinkel, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Bob Backlund

1982: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Jimmy Snuka

1981: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Tommy Rich, 3—Dusty Rhodes

1980: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Harley Race, 2—Verne Gagne, 3—The Iron Sheik

1979: Harley Race
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Jimmy Snuka, 3—Bob Backlund

1978: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Harley Race

1977: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Superstar Graham, 2—Bob Backlund, 3—Harley Race

1976: Terry Funk
Runners-up: 1—Bruno Sammartino, 2—Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Paul Jones

1975: Mr. Wrestling II

1974: Bruno Sammartino

1973: Jack Brisco

1972: Pedro Morales

TAG TEAM OF THE YEAR

1998: The New Age Outlaws
Runners-up: 1—Sabu & Rob Van Dam, 2—Kane & Mankind, 3—Kane & The Undertaker

1997: Scott Hall & Kevin Nash
Runners-up: 1—Rick & Scott Steiner, 2—The Road Warriors, 3—Lex Luger & The Giant

1996: Harlem Heat
Runners-up: 1—The Eliminators, 2—Rick & Scott Steiner, 3—The Gangstas

1995: Harlem Heat
Runners-up: 1—The Smokin' Gunns, 2—Owen Hart & Yokozuna, 3—Rick & Scott Steiner

1994: The Nasty Boys
Runners-up: 1—The Headshrinkers, 2—Public Enemy, 3—The Rock 'n' Roll Express

1993: Rick & Scott Steiner
Runners-up: 1—The Hollywood Blonds, 2—Money Inc., 3—The Heavenly Bodies

1992: Terry Gordy & Steve Williams
Runners-up: 1—The Natural Disasters, 2—Rick & Scott Steiner, 3—Barry Windham & Dustin Rhodes

1991: Larry Zbyszko & Arn Anderson
Runners-up: 1—Legion of Doom, 2—Rick & Scott Steiner, 3—Robert Fuller & Jeff Jarrett

1990: Rick & Scott Steiner
Runners-up: 1—Demolition, 2—Doom, 3—Legion of Doom

1989: Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson
Runners-up: 1—Demolition, 2—The Road Warriors, 3—Jim Garvin & Michael Hayes

1988: The Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—The Midnight Express, 2—Demolition, 3—Tully Blanchard & Arn Anderson

1987: The Midnight Express
Runners-up: 1—The Hart Foundation, 2—The Road Warriors, 3—The Rock 'n' Roll Express

1986: The Rock 'n' Roll Express
Runners-up: 1—The Road Warriors, 2—The British Bulldogs, 3—The Midnight Rockers

1985: The Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—Ted DiBiase & Steve Williams, 2—Ivan & Nikita Koloff, 3—The British Bulldogs

1984: The Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—Kerry, Kevin, & Mike Von Erich, 2—The Fabulous Ones, 3—The Rock 'n' Roll Express

1983: The Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—Kerry, Kevin, & David Von Erich, 2—Michael Hayes, Terry Gordy, & Buddy Roberts, 3—Jack & Jerry Brisco

1982: Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell
Runners-up: 1—Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito, 2—The Freebirds, 3—Ole Anderson & Stan Hansen

1981: The Fabulous Freebirds
Runners-up: 1—Rick Martel & Tony Garea, 2—Mr. Fuji & Mr. Saito, 3—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell

1980: Jimmy Snuka & Ray Stevens
Runners-up: 1—Mr. Wrestling & Mr. Wrestling II, 2—The Samoans, 3—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon

1979: Ivan Putski & Tito Santana
Runners-up: 1—Jerry & Johnny Valiant, 2—Paul Jones & Baron Von Raschke, 3—The Spoiler & Mark Lewin

1978: Rick Steamboat & Paul Jones
Runners-up: 1—The Yukon Lumberjacks, 2—Mike Graham & Steve Keirn, 3—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell

1977: Gene & Ole Anderson
Runners-up: 1—Mr. Fuji & Prof. Tanaka, 2—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell, 3—Ric Flair & Greg Valentine

1976: The Executioners
Runners-up: 1—Gene & Ole Anderson, 2—Billy White Wolf & Chief Jay Strongbow, 3—Jimmy & Johnny Valiant

1975: Gene & Ole Anderson

1974: Jimmy & Johnny Valiant

1973: Nick Bockwinkel & Ray Stevens

1972: Bruiser & Crusher

MATCH OF THE YEAR

1998: The Undertaker vs. Mankind
Runners-up: 1—Shawn Michaels vs. Steve Austin, 2—Bill Goldberg vs. Hollywood Hogan, 3—Taz vs. Bam Bam Bigelow

1997: Bret Hart vs. Steve Austin
Runners-up: 1—Eddy Guerrero vs. Rey Misterio Jr., 2—Shawn Michaels vs. The Undertaker, 3—Terry Funk vs. The Sandman vs. Stevie Richards

1996: Shawn Michaels vs. Bret Hart
Runners-up: 1—Shawn Michaels vs. Mankind, 2—Sabu vs. Rob Van Dam, 3—War Games

1995: Diesel vs. Shawn Michaels
Runners-up: 1—Jeff Jarrett vs. Shawn Michaels, 2—Harlem Heat vs. The Nasty Boys, 3—Psicosis vs. Rey Misterio Jr.

Shawn Michaels vs. Bret Hart: 1996

1994: Shawn Michaels vs. Razor Ramon
Runners-up: 1—The Nasty Boys vs. Cactus Jack & Maxx Payne, 2—Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan, 3—Alundra Blayze vs. Bull Nakano

1993: Shawn Michaels vs. Marty Jannetty
Runners-up: 1—The Steiners vs. Heavenly Bodies, 2—Rick Rude vs. Dustin Rhodes, 3—Cactus Jack vs. Big Van Vader

1992: Davey Boy Smith vs. Bret Hart
Runners-up: 1—Brian Pillman vs. Jushin Liger, 2—Royal Rumble, 3—Rick Steamboat vs. Rick Rude

1991: The Steiners vs. Sting & Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Bret Hart vs. Curt Hennig, 2—Lex Luger vs. Ron Simmons, 3—Cactus Jack vs. Eddie Gilbert

1990: Hulk Hogan vs. Ultimate Warrior (Warrior wins WWF World title)
Runners-up: 1—Sting vs. Ric Flair, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake, 3—Royal Rumble

1989: Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat (Flair wins his sixth NWA World title)
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, 2—Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat, 3—Eric Embry vs. P.Y. Chu-Hi

1988: Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan (Andre wins WWF World title)
Runners-up: 1—Sting vs. Ric Flair, 2—Jerry Lawler vs. Curt Hennig, 3—Ultimate Warrior vs. Honky Tonk Man

1987: Rick Steamboat vs. Randy Savage (Steamboat wins WWF I-C title)
Runners-up: 1—War Games/The

Match Beyond I, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. Andre the Giant, 3—Ronnie Garvin vs. Ric Flair

1986: Dusty Rhodes vs. Ric Flair (Dusty wins NWA World title at Great American Bash)
Runners-up: 1—The British Bulldogs vs. Greg Valentine & Brutus Beefcake, 2—The Road Warriors vs. Ronnie Garvin & Magnum T.A., 3—Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff

1985: Hulk Hogan & Mr. T vs. Roddy Piper & Paul Orndorff (WrestleMania I)
Runners-up: 1—The Road Warriors vs. Ivan & Nikita Koloff, 2—Ric Flair vs. Nikita Koloff, 3—Rick Martel vs. Bob Backlund

1984: Kerry Von Erich vs. Ric Flair (Von Erich captures NWA World title)
Runners-up: 1—Rick Martel vs. Jumbo Tsuruta, 2—Hulk Hogan vs. The Iron Sheik, 3—Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat

1983: Harley Race vs. Ric Flair (Race wins seventh NWA World title)
Runners-up: 1—Rick Steamboat & Jay Youngblood vs. Sgt. Slaughter & Don Kernodle, 2—Don Muraco vs. Pedro Morales, 3—Tommy Rich vs. Buzz Sawyer

1982: Bob Backlund vs. Jimmy Snuka (cage match)
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund vs. Ric Flair, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Otto Wanz, 3—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Otto Wanz

1981: Andre the Giant vs. Killer Khan
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair vs. Dusty Rhodes, 2—Bob Backlund vs. Don Muraco, 3—Michael Hayes vs. Terry Gordy

1980: Bruno Sammartino vs. Larry Zbyszko (cage match)
Runners-up: 1—Andre the Giant vs. Hulk Hogan, 2—Verne Gagne vs. Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Dusty Rhodes vs. Bob Backlund

1979: Dusty Rhodes vs. Harley Race (Rhodes wins NWA World title)
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund vs. Pat Patterson, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Bob Backlund, 3—Mr. Wrestling II vs. Ernie Ladd

1978: Bob Backlund vs. Superstar Graham (Backlund wins WWF World title)
Runners-up: 1—Blackjack Mulligan vs. Ric Flair, 2—Dusty Rhodes vs. Superstar Graham (bullrope match) 3—Rick Steamboat vs. Ric Flair

1977: Superstar Graham vs. Bruno Sammartino (Graham wins WWF World title)
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes vs. Superstar Graham, 2—Andre the Giant vs. Ric Flair, 3—Greg Gagne vs. Bob Backlund

1976: Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Hansen
Runners-up: 1—Terry Funk vs. Rocky Johnson, 2—Nick Bockwinkel vs. Baron Von Raschke, 3—Andre the Giant vs. Abdullah the Butcher

1975: Bruno Sammartino vs. Spiros Arion

1974: Dory Funk Jr. vs. Jack Brisco

1973: Harley Race vs. Dory Funk Jr. (Race wins first NWA World itle)

1972: Bruno Sammartino wins 22-man Los Angeles battle royal

FEUD OF THE YEAR

1998: Steve Austin vs. Vince McMahon
Runners-up: 1—NWO Wolfpac vs. NWO Hollywood, 2—Ric Flair vs. Eric Bischoff, 3—Rocky Maivia vs. Ken Shamrock

1997: Randy Savage vs. Dallas Page
Runners-up: 1—Steve Austin vs. Bret Hart, 2—Hulk Hogan vs Roddy Piper, 3—Sabu vs. Taz

1996: Eric Bischoff vs. Vince McMahon
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage, 2—Mankind vs. The Undertaker, 3—Jamie Dundee vs. Wolfie D

1995: Axl Rotten vs. Ian Rotten
Runners-up: 1—Harlem Heat vs. The Nasty Boys, 2—Jeff Jarrett vs. Razor Ramon, 3—Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage

Lex Luger vs. Ric Flair: 1988

1994: Bret Hart vs. Owen Hart
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Ric Flair, 2—Randy Savage vs. Crush, 3—Sabu vs. Terry Funk

1993: Bret Hart vs. Jerry Lawler
Runners-up: 1—Rick Rude vs. Dustin Rhodes, 2—Cactus Jack vs. Big Van Vader, 3—Tony Anthony vs. Tracey Smothers

1992: The Moondogs vs. Jeff Jarrett & Jerry Lawler
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair vs. Randy Savage, 2—Ultimate Warrior vs. Papa Shango, 3—Rick Rude vs. Rick Steamboat

1991: Ultimate Warrior vs. The Undertaker
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Sgt. Slaughter, 2—Sting vs. Cactus Jack & Abdullah the Butcher, 3—Lex Luger vs. Ron Simmons

1990: Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake, 2—Ultimate Warrior vs. Rick Rude, 3—Chris Adams vs. Steve Austin

1989: Ric Flair vs. Terry Funk
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, 2—Akbar's Army vs. Eric Embry, 3—Roddy Piper vs. Rick Rude

1988: Ric Flair vs. Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Rick Rude vs. Jake Roberts, 2—Kerry Von Erich vs. Jerry Lawler, 3—Hulk Hogan & Randy Savage vs. Ted DiBiase & Andre the Giant

1987: Four Horsemen vs. Superpowers & Road Warriors
Runners-up: 1—Randy Savage vs. Rick Steamboat, 2—Jerry Lawler vs. Tommy Rich & Austin Idol, 3—Brian Adias vs. Kevin Von Erich

1986: Hulk Hogan vs. Paul Orndorff
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair vs. Dusty Rhodes, 2—The Sheepherders vs. The Fantastics, 3—The Midnight Express vs. The Rock 'n' Roll Express

MOST POPULAR WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1998: Steve Austin
Runners-up: 1—Bill Goldberg, 2—Rocky Maivia, 3—Dallas Page

1997: Sting
Runners-up: 1—Steve Austin, 2—Ric Flair, 3—Dallas Page

1996: Shawn Michaels
Runners-up: 1—Randy Savage, 2—"Psycho" Sid Vicious, 3—The Undertaker

1995: Shawn Michaels
Runners-up: 1—Sting, 2—Diesel, 3—Hulk Hogan
1994: Sting
Runners-up: 1—Bret Hart, 2— The Undertaker, 3—Hulk Hogan
1993: Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Sting, 2—Bret Hart, 3—Dustin Rhodes
1992: Sting
Runners-up: 1—The Ultimate Warrior, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Ron Simmons
1991: Sting
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Sid Justice, 3—Rick & Scott Steiner
1990: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Sting, 2—Ultimate Warrior, 3—Lex Luger
1989: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Sting, 3—The Ultimate Warrior
1988: Randy Savage
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Sting, 3—Lex Luger
1987: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Randy Savage, 3—Nikita Koloff
1986: Roddy Piper
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Rick Morton, 3—Nikita Koloff
1985: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Tito Santana
1984: Kerry Von Erich
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Dusty Rhodes, 3—Sgt. Slaughter
1983: Jimmy Snuka
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—David Von Erich, 3—Junkyard Dog
1982: Andre the Giant
Runners-up: 1—Tommy Rich, 2—Hulk Hogan, 3—Dusty Rhodes
1981: Tommy Rich
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Dusty Rhodes
1980: Mr. Wrestling II
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Andre the Giant, 3—Bruno Sammartino
1979: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Ivan Putski, 3—Mr. Wrestling II
1978: Dusty Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Bob Backlund
1977: Andre the Giant
Runners-up: 1—Dusty Rhodes, 2—Bob Backlund, 3—Mil Mascaras
1976: Wahoo McDaniel
Runners-up: 1—Chief Jay Strongbow, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Ivan Putski
1975: Mil Mascaras
1974: Billy Robinson
1973: Chief Jay Strongbow
1972: Jack Brisco/Fred Curry (tie)

Hulk Hogan: 1996

MOST HATED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1998: Hollywood Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Vince McMahon, 2—Eric Bischoff, 3—Bret Hart
1997: Bret Hart
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Owen Hart, 3—Curt Hennig
1996: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Goldust, 2—Jerry Lawler, 3—The Giant
1995: Jerry Lawler
Runners-up: 1—Kevin Sullivan, 2—The Gangstas, 3—Davey Boy Smith
1994: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Owen Hart, 2—Big Van Vader, 3—Jerry Lawler
1993: Jerry Lawler
Runners-up: 1—Big Van Vader, 2—Yokozuna, 3—Shawn Michaels
1992: Rick Rude
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Jake Roberts, 3—The Moondogs
1991: Sgt. Slaughter
Runners-up: 1—The Undertaker, 2—Lex Luger, 3—Jake Roberts
1990: Earthquake
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Eddie Gilbert
1989: Randy Savage
Runners-up: 1—Terry Funk, 2—Rick Rude, 3—Lex Luger
1988: Andre the Giant
Runners-up: 1—Barry Windham, 2—Eddie Gilbert, 3—Ted DiBiase
1987: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Andre the Giant, 2—Honky Tonk Man, 3—Lex Luger
1986: Paul Orndorff
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Col. DeBeers, 3—Rick Rude
1985: Roddy Piper
Runners-up: 1—Chris Adams, 2—Ted DiBiase, 3—John Studd
1984: Roddy Piper
Runners-up: 1—Kevin Sullivan, 2—Tully Blanchard, 3—The Iron Sheik
1983: Greg Valentine
Runners-up: 1—Masked Superstar, 2—Kevin Sullivan, 3—Michael Hayes
1982: Ted DiBiase
Runners-up: 1—Blackjack Mulligan, 2—Superstar Graham, 3—Buzz Sawyer
1981: Ken Patera
Runners-up: 1—Don Muraco, 2—Nick Bockwinkel, 3—Roddy Piper
1980: Larry Zbyszko
Runners-up: 1—Greg Valentine, 2—Ernie Ladd, 3—Hulk Hogan
1979: Greg Valentine
Runners-up: 1—Terry Funk, 2—Ken Patera, 3—Ivan Koloff
1978: Ric Flair
Runners-up: 1—Ken Patera, 2—Victor Rivera, 3—Bob Orton Jr.
1977: Ken Patera
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2— Superstar Graham, 3—Nick Bockwinkel
1976: Stan Hansen
Runners-up: 1—Ox Baker, 2—Terry Funk, 3—The Spoiler
1975: Greg Valentine
1974: The Great Mephisto
1973: Superstar Graham
1972: The Sheik

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1998: Booker T
Runners-up: 1—D-Lo Brown, 2—The New Age Outlaws, 3—Juventud Guerrera
1997: Ken Shamrock
Runners-up: 1—Steve McMichael, 2—The Headbangers, 3—Alex Wright
1996: Ahmed Johnson
Runners-up: 1—Chris Benoit, 2—Stevie Richards, 3—Taz
1995: "Diamond" Dallas Page
Runners-up: 1—Tommy Dreamer, 2—Harlem Heat, 3—Savio Vega
1994: Diesel
Runners-up: 1—Johnny B. Badd, 2—Sabu, 3—Owen Hart

1993: Yokozuna
Runners-up: 1—The Kid, 2—Brian Lee, 3—Tatanka
1992: Razor Ramon
Runners-up: 1—Ron Simmons, 2—Virgil, 3—Brian Christopher
1991: Dustin Rhodes
Runners-up: 1—Ron Simmons, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Crush
1990: Paul Roma
Runners-up: 1—Doom, 2—Tugboat, 3—Cactus Jack
1989: Scott Steiner
Runners-up: 1—Brutus Beefcake, 2—Jeff Jarrett, 3—P.Y. Chu-Hi
1988: Sting
Runners-up: 1—The Ultimate Warrior, 2—Iceman Parsons, 3—Jeff Jarrett
1987: Curt Hennig
Runners-up: 1—Al Perez, 2—Honky Tonk Man, 3—Sting
1986: Terry Gordy
Runners-up: 1—Scott Hall, 2—Sam Houston, 3—Wendell Cooley
1985: Steve Williams
Runners-up: 1—Brian Adias, 2—Nikita Koloff, 3—Randy Savage
1984: Billy Jack Haynes
Runners-up: 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Rick Martel, 3—Ronnie Garvin
1983: Brett Wayne Sawyer
Runners-up: 1—Mike Rotundo, 2—Pez Whatley, 3—Brad Rheingans
1982: Barry Windham
Runners-up: 1—Otto Wanz, 2—Buzz Sawyer, 3—Rick Martel
1981: Kevin Sullivan
Runners-up: 1—Sgt. Slaughter, 2—Charlie Cook, 3—Tito Santana
1980: Tony Atlas
Runners-up: 1—Larry Zbyszko, 2—Ted DiBiase, 3—Kerry Von Erich
1979: Tommy Rich
Runners-up: 1—Eddy Mansfield, 2—Kevin Von Erich, 3—Ted DiBiase
1978: Dino Bravo
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Tony Atlas

COMEBACK OF THE YEAR

1998: X-Pac
Runners-up: 1—Sting, 2—Dean Malenko, 3—The Warrior
1997: Bret Hart
Runners-up: 1—Curt Hennig, 2—Brian Pillman, 3—Ric Flair
1996: "Psycho" Sid Vicious
Runners-up: 1—Jake Roberts, 2—Faarooq, 3—Animal
1995: Randy Savage
Runners-up: 1—The Heavenly Bodies, 2—Savio Vega, 3—The Ultimate Warrior
1994: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—The Undertaker, 3—Alundra Blayze
1993: Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Brutus Beefcake, 2—Ric Flair, 3—Paul Roma
1992: The Ultimate Warrior
Runners-up: 1—Bob Backlund, 2—The Sheik, 3—Junkyard Dog

"Psycho" Sid Vicious: 1996

INSPIRATIONAL WRESTLER OF THE YEAR

1998: Bill Goldberg
Runners-up: 1—Steve Austin, 2—Mankind, 3—Shane Douglas
1997: Terry Funk
Runners-up: 1—Steve Austin, 2—Perry Saturn, 3—Roddy Piper
1996: Jake Roberts
Runners-up: 1—Jushin Liger, 2—Ahmed Johnson, 3—Rey Misterio Jr.
1995: Barry Horowitz
Runners-up: 1—Sabu, 2—Antonio Inoki, 3—Dan Severn
1994: Bret Hart
Runners-up: 1—Terry Funk, 2—The Guardian Angel, 3—Dave Sullivan
1993: Cactus Jack
Runners-up: 1—Lex Luger, 2—The Kid, 3—Brutus Beefcake
1992: Ron Simmons
Runners-up: 1—The Undertaker, 2—Rick Steamboat, 3—Eric Embry
1991: The Patriot
Runners-up: 1—Jerry Lawler, 2—Sid Justice, 3—Bill Dundee
1990: Sting
Runners-up: 1—Hulk Hogan, 2—Jerry Lawler, 3—Nikolai Volkoff
1989: Eric Embry
Runners-up: 1—Nikita Koloff, 2—Billy Jack Haynes, 3—Ric Flair
1988: Jerry Lawler
Runners-up: 1—Kerry Von Erich, 2—Road Warrior Animal, 3—Jake Roberts
1987: Nikita Koloff
Runners-up: 1—Dynamite Kid, 2—Chris Adams, 3—Superstar Graham
1986: Chris Adams
Runners-up: 1—Magnum T.A., 2—Kerry Von Erich, 3—Steve Williams
1985: Mike Von Erich
Runners-up: 1—Paul Orndorff, 2—Hacksaw Duggan, 3—Kevin Von Erich
1984: Sgt. Slaughter
Runners-up: 1—Kerry Von Erich, 2—Kevin Von Erich, 3—Bob Backlund
1983: Hulk Hogan
Runners-up: 1—Roddy Piper, 2—Buzz Sawyer, 3—Buddy Rose
1982: Roddy Piper
Runners-up: 1—Jimmy Snuka, 2—Mil Mascaras, 3—Jimmy Valiant
1981: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Ted DiBiase, 2—Tito Santana, 3—Mr. Wrestling II
1980: Junkyard Dog
Runners-up: 1—Rick Steamboat, 2—Verne Gagne, 3—Mr. Florida
1979: Chief Jay Strongbow
Runners-up: 1—Ric Flair, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Dusty Rhodes
1978: Blackjack Mulligan
Runners-up: 1—Bruno Sammartino, 2—Mr. Wrestling II, 3—Jim Brunzell
1977: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Don Muraco, 2—Bruno Sammartino, 3—Terry Funk
1976: Bruno Sammartino
Runners-up: 1—Wahoo McDaniel, 2—Bob Roop, 3—Bob Armstrong
1975: Mike McCord
1974: Dick Murdoch
1973: Johnny Valentine
1972: Lord Al Hays

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR

1998: Bill Goldberg
Runners-up: 1—Sable, 2—Darren Drozdov, 3—Mark Henry
1997: Prince Iaukea
Runners-up: 1—Ernest Miller, 2—Chris Chetti, 3—Brakus
1996: The Giant
Runners-up: 1—Steve McMichael, 2—Rocky Maivia, 3—Joe Gomez
1995: Alex Wright
Runners-up: 1—Sgt. Craig Pittman, 2—Lawrence Taylor, 3—Madd Maxxine

1994: 911
Runners-up: 1—Bob Holly, 2—Abbudah Singh, 3—Mikey Whipwreck
1993: Vampire Warrior
Runners-up: 1—Robbie Eagle, 2—The Coles, 3—The Headhunters
1992: Erik Watts
Runners-up: 1—"Diamond" Dallas Page, 2—Vladimir Koloff, 3—Chaz
1991: Johnny B. Badd
Runners-up: 1—The Patriot, 2—Terri Power, 3—Lightning Kid
1990: Steve Austin
Runners-up: 1—El Gigante, 2—Brad Anderson, 3—Chris Chavis
1989: Mike Enos & Wayne Bloom
Runners-up: 1—Dustin Rhodes, 2—Scotty the Body, 3—Johnathan Holliday
1988: Madusa Miceli
Runners-up: 1—Chris Benoit, 2—Max Pain, 3—Scott Steiner
1987: Owen Hart
Runners-up: 1—Bubba Rogers, 2—Shane Douglas, 3—Doug Furnas
1986: Lex Luger
Runners-up: 1—Bam Bam Bigelow, 2—Sting, 3—Tom Magee
1985: Nord the Barbarian
Runners-up: 1—Kendall Windham, 2—Dan Spivey, 3—Sam Houston
1984: Mike Von Erich
Runners-up: 1—Nikita Koloff, 2—Krusher Khrushchev, 3—Kevin Kelly
1983: Angelo Mosca Jr.
Runners-up: 1—King Kong Bundy, 2—Scott Armstrong, 3—Arn Anderson
1982: Brad Armstrong
Runners-up: 1—Tiger Mask, 2—Mike Rotundo, 3—Kamala
1981: David Sammartino
Runners-up: 1—Brad Rheingans, 2—Curt Hennig, 3—Ron Richie
1980: Terry Taylor
Runners-up: 1—Barry Windham, 2—Rick McGraw, 3—Tom Prichard
1979: Sweet Brown Sugar
Runners-up: 1—Steve Travis, 2—Bryan St. John, 3—Eddie Gilbert
1978: Tommy Rich
Runners-up: 1—Jay Youngblood, 2—David Von Erich, 3—Tully Blanchard
1977: Rick Steamboat
Runners-up: 1—Jimmy Snuka, 2—John Studd, 3—Skip Young
1976: Bob Backlund
Runners-up: 1—Chavo Guerrero, 2—Steve Keirn, 3—Johnny Rivera
1975: Ric Flair
1974: Larry Zbyszko
1973: Cowboy Bob Orton/Tony Garea (tie)
1972: Mike Graham

Jim Cornette: 1995

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

1998: Paul Bearer
Runners-up: 1—Bill Alfonso, 2—Tammy Lynn Sytch, 3—Paul Ellering
1997: Bill Alfonso
Runners-up: 1—Jacquelyn, 2—Paul Bearer, 3—Ted DiBiase
1996: Sunny
Runners-up: 1—Jimmy Hart, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—Bill Alfonso
1995: Jim Cornette
Runners-up: 1—Sherri Martel, 2—Col. Robert Parker, 3—Woman
1994: Jimmy Hart
Runners-up: 1—Ted DiBiase, 2—Col. Robert Parker, 3—Paul E. Dangerously
1993: Jim Cornette
Runners-up: 1—Harley Race, 2—Mr. Fuji, 3—Tammy Fytch
1992: Paul E. Dangerously
Runners-up: 1—Curt Hennig, 2—Harley Race, 3—Jim Cornette
1991: Bobby Heenan
Runners-up: 1—Harley Race, 2—Alexandra York, 3—Paul Bearer
1990: Teddy Long
Runners-up: 1—Bobby Heenan, 2—Ole Anderson, 3—Jim Cornette
1989: Bobby Heenan
Runners-up: 1—Gary Hart, 2—Teddy Long, 3—Gen. Skandor Akbar
1988: J.J. Dillon
Runners-up: 1—Elizabeth, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—Paul E. Dangerously
1987: Jimmy Hart
Runners-up: 1—J.J. Dillon, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—Paul E. Dangerously
1986: Capt. Lou Albano
Runners-up: 1—Paul Ellering, 2—Elizabeth, 3—Jim Cornette
1985: Jim Cornette
Runners-up: 1—Capt. Lou Albano, 2—Paul Ellering, 3—Bobby Heenan
1984: Paul Ellering
Runners-up: 1—Jimmy Hart, 2—Jim Cornette, 3—James J. Dillon
1983: James J. Dillon
Runners-up: 1—Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—Paul Ellering
1982: James J. Dillon
Runners-up: 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Sonny King, 3—Jimmy Hart
1981: Capt. Lou Albano
Runners-up: 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Sir Oliver Humperdink, 3—The Grand Wizard
1980: Sir Oliver Humperdink
Runners-up: 1—Arnold Skaaland, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—The Great Mephisto
1979: Arnold Skaaland
Runners-up: 1—Capt. Lou Albano, 2—Buddy Rogers, 3—Sir Oliver Humperdink
1978: Arnold Skaaland
Runners-up: 1—The Grand Wizard, 2—Bobby Heenan, 3—Gary Hart
1977: The Grand Wizard
Runners-up: 1—Bobby Heenan, 2—Capt. Lou Albano, 3—Lord Al Hays
1976: Bobby Heenan
Runners-up: 1—Lou Albano, 2—Fred Blassie, 3—Gary Hart
1975: George "Crybaby" Cannon
1974: Capt. Lou Albano
1973: The Grand Wizard
1972: Bobby Heenan

PWI EDITORS' AWARD

1998: Bobo Brazil
1997: Arn Anderson
1996: Dan Hodge
1995: Rick Steamboat
1994: Capt. Lou Albano
1993: Andre The Giant
1992: Stanley Weston
1991: Fabulous Moolah
1990: Buddy Rogers
1989: Gordon Solie
1988: Bruiser Brody & Adrian Adonis
1987: Paul Boesch
1986: Verne Gagne
1985: Dan Shocket
1984: David Von Erich
1983: The Grand Wizard
1982: Lou Thesz
1981: Bruno Sammartino

PWI SUPERSTATS

TITLE CHANGES: 1999

The following is a cumulative listing of all major title changes to have taken place in 1999 up to press time. For a comprehensive up-to-date title listing each and every month, be sure to check out the "Roll Call Of Champions" in each issue of *Inside Wrestling*.

Vader

ALL-JAPAN TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIP [1]

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Toshiaki Kawada	Mitsuharu Misawa	Osaka, Japan	January 22
Vader	Akira Taue	Tokyo, Japan[2]	March 6
Mitsuharu Misawa	Vader	Tokyo, Japan	May 2
Vader	Mitsuharu Misawa	Tokyo, Japan	October 30

[1]This championship consists of the All-Japan International, the All-Japan United National, and the Pacific Wrestling Federation heavyweight titles.
[2]This was a match for the vacant titles, as previous champion Toshiaki Kawada broke his arm during the match in which he won them and was never able to make a defense.

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Jun Akiyama & Kenta Kobashi	Toshiaki Kawada & Akira Taue	Kochi, Japan	January 7
Johnny Ace & Bart Gunn	Jun Akiyama & Kenta Kobashi	Sendai, Japan	June 9
Takao Omori & Yoshihiro Takayama	Johnny Ace & Bart Gunn	Tokyo, Japan	July 23
Mitsuharu Misawa & Yoshinari Ogawa	Takao Omori & Yoshihiro Takayama	Hiroshima, Japan	August 25
Jun Akiyama & Kenta Kobashi	Mitsuharu Misawa & Yoshinari Ogawa	Nagoya, Japan	October 23

ECW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Taz	Shane Douglas	Kissimmee, FL	January 10
Mike Awesome	Taz	Villa Park, IL[1]	September 19

[1]This was a three-way match also involving Masato Tanaka.

ECW WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley	Sabu & Rob Van Dam	Buffalo, NY[1]	April 17
Spike Dudley & Mahoney	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley	Dayton, OH	July 18
Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley	Spike Dudley & Mahoney	Cleveland, OH	August 13
Spike Dudley & Mahoney	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley	Toledo, OH	August 14
Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley	Spike Dudley & Mahoney	Elmhurst, NY	August 26
Tommy Dreamer & Raven	Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley	Elmhurst, NY	August 26

[1]Buh Buh Ray won the belts for his team by pinning Van Dam in a singles match.

ECW TV TITLE

Rob Van Dam has held the title since April 4, 1998.

IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Keiji Muto	Scott Norton	Tokyo, Japan	January 4

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Koji Kanemoto	Jushin Liger	Hiroshima, Japan	March 17
Kendo Ka Shin	Koji Kanemoto	Tokyo, Japan	August 28
Jushin Liger	Kendo Ka Shin	Tokyo, Japan	October 11

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Satoshi Kojima Tenzan & Hiroyoshi	Shiro Koshinaka & Genichiro Tenryu	Tokyo, Japan	January 4
Shiro Koshinaka & Kensuke Sasaki	Satoshi Kojima & Hiroyoshi Tenzan	Amagaseki, Japan	March 22
Tatsutoshi Goto & Michiyoshi Ohara	Shiro Koshinaka & Kensuke Sasaki	Shizuoka, Japan	June 27
Yuji Nagata & Manabu Nakanishi	Tatsutoshi Goto & Michiyoshi Ohara	Tokyo, Japan	August 28

IWGP JUNIOR TAG TEAM TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Kendo Ka Shin & Dr. Wagner Jr.	Shinjiro Otani & Tatsuhito Takaiwa	Tokyo, Japan	January 4
Shinjiro Otani & Tatsuhito Takaiwa	The Great Sasuke & Jushin Liger	Morioka, Japan	July 13

NWA HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Naoya Ogawa	Dan Severn	Yokohama, Japan	March 14
Gary Steele	Naoya Ogawa	Charlotte, NC[1]	September 25
Naoya Ogawa	Gary Steele	Thomaston, CT	October 2

[1]This was a three-way match also involving Brian Anthony.

NWA TAG TEAM TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Knuckles Nelson & Rick Fuller	Kit Carson & Khris Germany	Dallas, TX[1]	June 10
Public Enemy	Knuckles Nelson & Rick Fuller	Bolton, MA	June 17
Dukes Dalton & Knuckles Nelson	Public Enemy	Dorchester, MA	June 19
Kit Carson & Khris Germany	Dukes Dalton & Knuckles Nelson	Charlotte, NC	September 25

[1]The title had been held up since February 26, when Nelson and Erich Sbraccia were scheduled to defend against Carson and Germany in Dallas but couldn't make the card due to weather and transportation problems. Fuller wrestled in place of Sbraccia in this bout.

WCW CRUISERWEIGHT TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Rey Misterio Jr.	Billy Kidman	Cincinnati, OH	March 15
Psicosis	Rey Misterio Jr.	Gainesville, FL[1]	April 19
Rey Misterio Jr.	Psicosis	Fargo, ND	April 26
Lenny Lane	Rey Misterio Jr.	Lubbock, TX	August 19
Disco Inferno	Psicosis	Kansas City, MO[2]	October 4

[1]This was a four-way match also involving Blitzkrieg and Juventud Guerrera.
[2]Lane was stripped of the title for reasons never made clear by WCW; Psicosis, who had been scheduled to challenge for it, was then awarded the championship.

WCW TV TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Booker T	Scott Steiner	Louisville, KY	March 14
Rick Steiner	Booker T	St. Louis, MO	May 9
Chris Benoit	Rick Steiner	Chapel Hill, NC	September 13
Rick Steiner	Chris Benoit	Las Vegas, NV	October 24

WCW U.S. HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Roddy Piper	Bret Hart	Buffalo, NY	February 8
Scott Hall	Roddy Piper	Oakland, CA	February 21
Scott Steiner	Booker T	Tacoma, WA[1]	April 11
Chris Benoit	David Flair	Boise, ID[2]	August 9
Sid Vicious	Chris Benoit	Winston-Salem, NC	September 12
Bill Goldberg	Sid Vicious	Las Vegas, NV[3]	October 24
Bret Hart	Bill Goldberg	Phoenix, AZ	October 25
Scott Hall	Bret Hart	Indianapolis, IN	November 8

[1]This was a tournament final. Previous champ Scott Hall had been stripped after being forced out of action with an ankle injury.
[2]David Flair had been awarded the title several weeks earlier after his father, then-WCW President Ric Flair, stripped Steiner of the title due to injury.
[3]Goldberg won this match when the referee stopped the match due to excessive bleeding on Vicious' part.

Naoya Ogawa

Disco Inferno

Rick Steiner

Konnan & Billy Kidman

Davey Boy Smith

Big Bossman

WCW WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Hollywood Hogan	Kevin Nash	Atlanta, GA[1]	January 4
Ric Flair	Hollywood Hogan	Louisville, KY	March 14
Dallas Page	Ric Flair	Tacoma, WA[2]	April 11
Sting	Dallas Page	Fargo, ND	April 26
Dallas Page	Sting	Fargo, ND[3]	April 26
Kevin Nash	Dallas Page	St. Louis, MO	May 9
Randy Savage	Kevin Nash	Fort Lauderdale, FL[4]	July 11
Hulk Hogan	Randy Savage	Jacksonville, FL	July 12
Sting[5]	Hulk Hogan	Winston-Salem, NC	September 12

[1]Nash simply laid down and allowed Hogan to pin him in this match.
[2]This was a four-corners match also involving Sting and Hollywood Hogan.
[3]This was a four-corners match also involving Bill Goldberg and Kevin Nash.
[4]Savage pinned Nash in a tag team match that had a stipulation that said Nash would lose the belt if someone pinned him.
[5]Bill Goldberg had apparently won the belt from Sting in a special challenge match on October 24, but one night later the title was declared vacant because Sting vs. Goldberg was not a sanctioned match and because Sting attacked the referee after it was over. The winner of a 32-man tournament concluding on November 21 was to be declared the new champion.

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Curt Hennig & Barry Windham	Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko	Oakland, CA[1]	February 21
Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko	Curt Hennig & Barry Windham	Louisville, KY	March 14
Billy Kidman & Rey Misterio Jr.	Chris Benoit & Dean Malenko	Toronto, Ontario	March 29
Perry Saturn & Raven	Billy Kidman . & Rey Misterio Jr	St. Louis, MO[2]	May 9
Bam Bam Bigelow & Dallas Page	Perry Saturn & Kanyon	Houston, TX[3]	May 31
Harlem Heat	Bam Bam Bigelow & Kanyon	Sturgis, SD[4]	August 14
Barry & Kendall Windham	Harlem Heat	Las Vegas, NV	August 23
Harlem Heat	Barry & Kendall Windham	Winston-Salem, NC	September 12
Konnan & Rey Misterio Jr.	Harlem Heat	Philadelphia, PA	October 18
Harlem Heat	—	Las Vegas, NV[5]	October 24
Billy Kidman & Konnan	Harlem Heat	Phoenix, AZ	October 25

[1]This was the final match of a double-elimination tournament for the vacant title, which had been basically ignored during the previous few months.
[2]This was a three-way match also involving Chris Benoit and Dean Malenko.
[3]Kanyon was allowed to substitute for the injured Raven.
[4]The trio of Bam Bam Bigelow, Dallas Page, and Kanyon had been permitted to defend the title in any combination of two.
[5]Because Misterio injured his knee and was unable to wrestle, he and Konnan were stripped of the title. This was a three-team match for the title that also involved Konnan and Billy Kidman and Brian Knobs and Hugh Morrus.

WWF EUROPEAN TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Shane McMahon	X-Pac	Birmingham, AL[1]	February 15
D-Lo Brown	Midian	Buffalo, NY[2]	July 25
Jeff Jarrett	D-Lo Brown	Minneapolis, MN	August 22
Mark Henry	Jeff Jarrett	Ames, IA[3]	August 23
D-Lo Brown	Mark Henry	Charlotte, NC	September 26
Davey Boy Smith	D-Lo Brown	Springfield, MA	October 26

[1]McMahon won the belt by pinning X-Pac in a tag team match. The stipulation on the match said that if someone pinned X-Pac, he would win the title.
[2]McMahon retired the belt shortly after beating X-Pac at WrestleMania XV, then reactivated it and awarded it to Midian several months later.
[3]Jarrett gave the title to Henry as a reward for helping him beat Brown for both the European and Intercontinental championships the previous night.

WWF HARDCORE TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Bob Holly	Al Snow	Memphis, TN[1]	February 14
Billy Gunn	Bob Holly	San Jose, CA	March 15
Bob Holly	Billy Gunn	Philadelphia, PA[2]	March 28
Al Snow	Bob Holly	Providence, RI	April 25
Big Bossman	Al Snow	Buffalo, NY	July 25
Al Snow	Big Bossman	Minneapolis, MN	August 22
Big Bossman	Al Snow	Kansas City, MO	August 24
Davey Boy Smith	Big Bossman	Albany, NY	September 7
Al Snow	Davey Boy Smith	Albany, NY[3]	September 7
Big Bossman	Al Snow	Birmingham, AL[4]	October 12

[1]The title had become vacant six days earlier when champion Jesse James was injured in a locker room altercation and rendered unable to defend it. Holly and Snow were the top two contenders.

[2]This was a three-way match also involving Al Snow.
[3]Immediately after defeating Bossman for the belt, Smith awarded it to Al Snow.
[4]This was a three-way match also involving Paul Wight.

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Val Venis	Ken Shamrock	Memphis, TN	February 14
Jesse James Val Venis	San Jose, CA	March 15	
Goldust	Jesse James	East Rutherford, NJ	March 29
The Godfather	Goldust	Detroit, MI	April 12
Jeff Jarrett	The Godfather	Moline, IL	May 25
Edge	Jeff Jarrett	Toronto, Ontario	July 24
Jeff Jarrett	Edge	Buffalo, NY	July 25
D-Lo Brown	Jeff Jarrett	Dayton, OH	July 27
Jeff Jarrett	D-Lo Brown	Minneapolis, MN	August 22
Chyna	Jeff Jarrett	Cleveland, OH	October 17

WWF WOMEN'S TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Debra	Sable	Orlando, FL[1]	May 10
Ivory	Debra	Worcester, MA	June 8
Fabulous Moolah	Ivory	Cleveland, OH	October 17
Ivory	Fabulous Moolah	Providence, RI	October 25

[1]Though Debra had her clothes stripped off first in this evening gown match, she was still declared the winner by WWF Commissioner Shawn Michaels.

WWF WORLD HEAVYWEIGHT TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
The Rock	Mankind	Anaheim, CA	January 24
Mankind	The Rock	Tucson, AZ[1]	January 26
The Rock	Mankind	Birmingham, AL	February 15
Steve Austin	The Rock	Philadelphia, PA	March 28
The Undertaker	Steve Austin	Kansas City, MO	May 23
Steve Austin	The Undertaker	Charlotte, NC	June 28
Mankind	Steve Austin	Minneapolis, MN[2]	August 22
Hunter Hearst Helmsley	Mankind	Ames, IA	August 23
Vince McMahon	Hunter Hearst Helmsley	Las Vegas, NV	September 14
Hunter Hearst Helmsley	—	Charlotte, NC[3]	September 26

[1]This was a special empty-arena, falls-count-anywhere match that was taped for broadcast during halftime of the Super Bowl on the USA Network's *Halftime Heat.*
[2]This was a three-way match also involving Hunter Hearst Helmsley.
[3]Helmsley won the vacant title by pinning The Rock in a six-man match. Vince McMahon had given it up on September 20.

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM TITLE

WON BY	WON FROM	LOCATION	DATE
Owen Hart & Jeff Jarrett	Big Bossman & Ken Shamrock	Phoenix, AZ	January 25
Kane & X-Pac	Owen Hart & Jeff Jarrett	Uniondale, NY	March 30
Bradshaw & Faarooq	Kane & X-Pac	Moline, IL	May 25
Jeff & Matt Hardy	Bradshaw & Faarooq	Fayetteville, NC	June 29
Bradshaw & Faarooq	Jeff & Matt Hardy	Buffalo, NY[1]	July 25
Kane & X-Pac	Bradshaw & Faarooq	Rosemont, IL	August 9
The Undertaker & Paul Wight	Kane & X-Pac	Minneapolis, MN	August 22
Mankind & The Rock	The Undertaker & Paul Wight	Boston, MA	August 30
The Undertaker & Paul Wight	Mankind & The Rock	Albany, NY	September 7
Mankind & The Rock	The Undertaker & Paul Wight	Houston, TX[2]	September 20
Billy Gunn & Jesse James	Mankind & The Rock	Dallas, TX	September 21
Mankind & The Rock	Billy Gunn & Jesse James	Birmingham, AL	October 12
Bob & Crash Holly	Mankind & The Rock	Columbus, OH[3]	October 18
Mankind & Al Snow	Bob & Crash Holly	Philadelphia, PA	November 2
Billy Gunn & Jesse James	Mankind & Al Snow	State College, PA	November 8

[1]This was a three-on-two handicap match also involving the Hardys' manager, Michael Hayes. Bradshaw and Faarooq won when Bradshaw pinned Hayes.
[2]This was a "Dark Side Rules" match in which Viscera, Wight, and Midian were the actual opponents for Mankind and The Rock.
[3]Because he was not getting along with The Rock at the time this match was held, Mankind refused to participate and instead sat outside the ring with his back turned to the action.

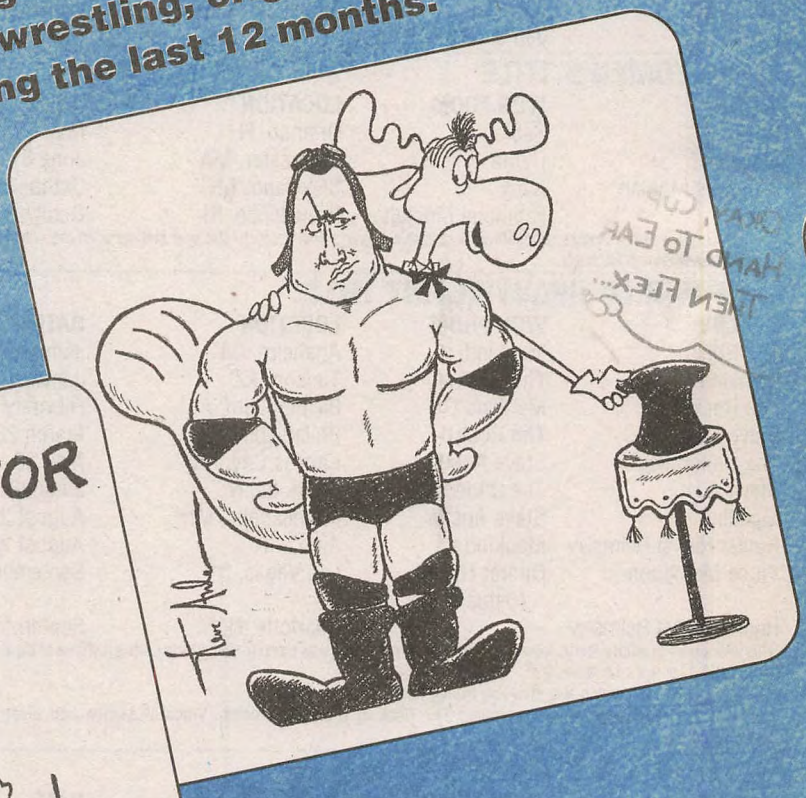
Ivory

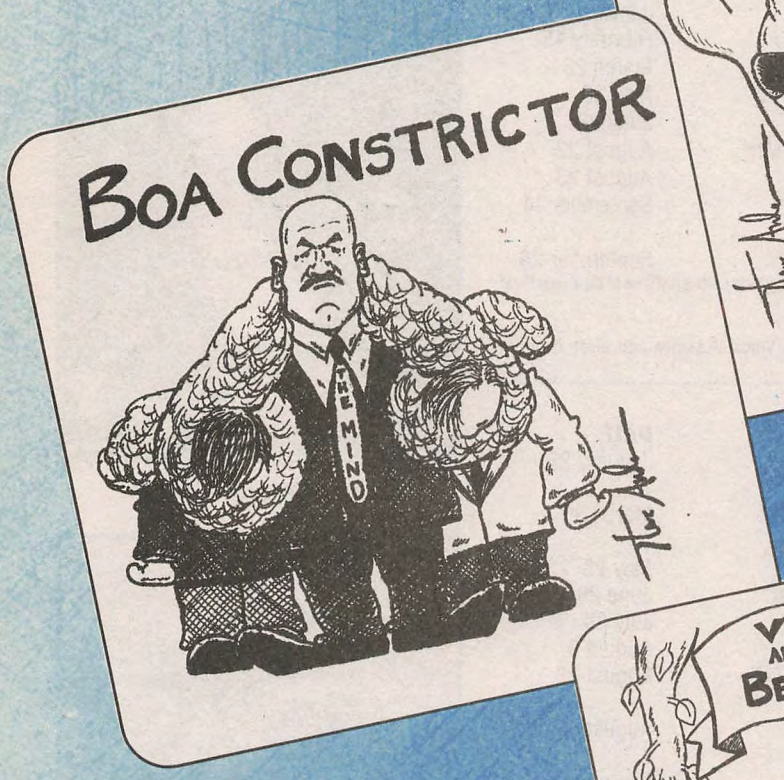
Hunter Hearst Helmsley

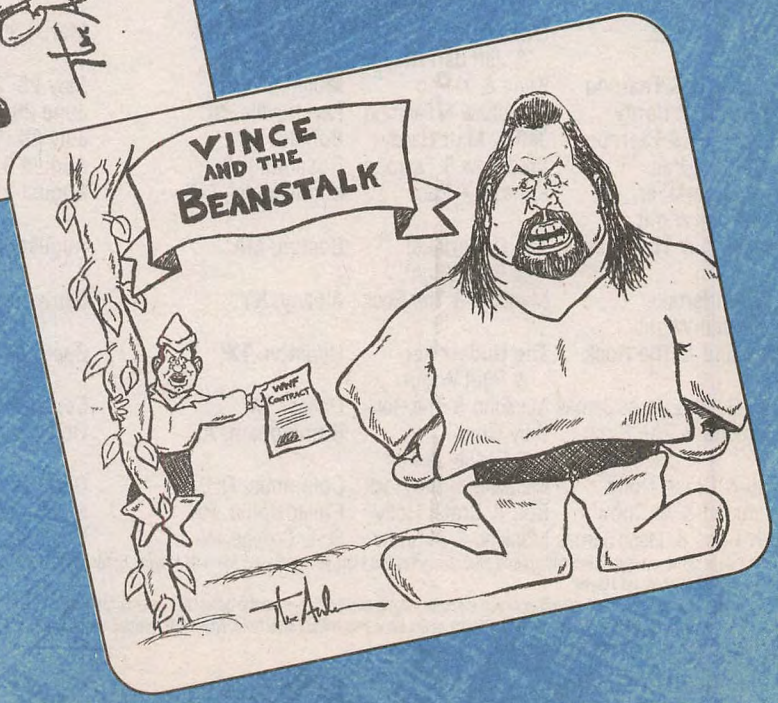
Billy Gunn & Jesse James

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Steve Anderson has a truly unique view of the sport. His efforts on these pages, depicting memorable aspects of the year in wrestling, originally ran in The Wrestler during the last 12 months.







YES... WE HAVE A... UM... NEW ARRIVAL.
SECURITY
DAISY HILL PUPPY FARM
OKAY, CUP HAND TO EAR, THEN FLEX...
NO WAIT. FLEX FIRST, THEN- DANG!
GUIDE TO HULKA-MANIA
YEE HAW!
HORSIE RIDE 50¢
THE ODD COUPLE
THE "FELIX" IS GOING TO TAKE THIS VACUUM CLEANER- TURN IT SIDEWAYS...
CHIPS

MEMORIES OF 1999

THE EDITORS' PICKS

Finally, we close out this year-end issue of PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED by asking our editors pick the most memorable and enduring moment of the past year. In doing so, we close the book on 1999 and look forward to the next 12 months. In 2000, we wish you and yours another year filled with health, happiness, and the best that professional wrestling has to offer

Stu Saks (Publisher): Speaking to Martha Hart, even five months after the tragic death of her husband, was something I felt awkward doing. Given her feelings about the business, I didn't know how she would react when I told her that Owen was the recipient of the *PWI* Editors' Award. Martha was sweet and gracious, however. She told me that Owen treasured the *PWI* Rookie of the Year plaque he received in 1987 and that this award, honoring Owen's memory, was something she would be proud to hang on the wall beside it. I only wish that we could have given him the award long after he retired from the sport."

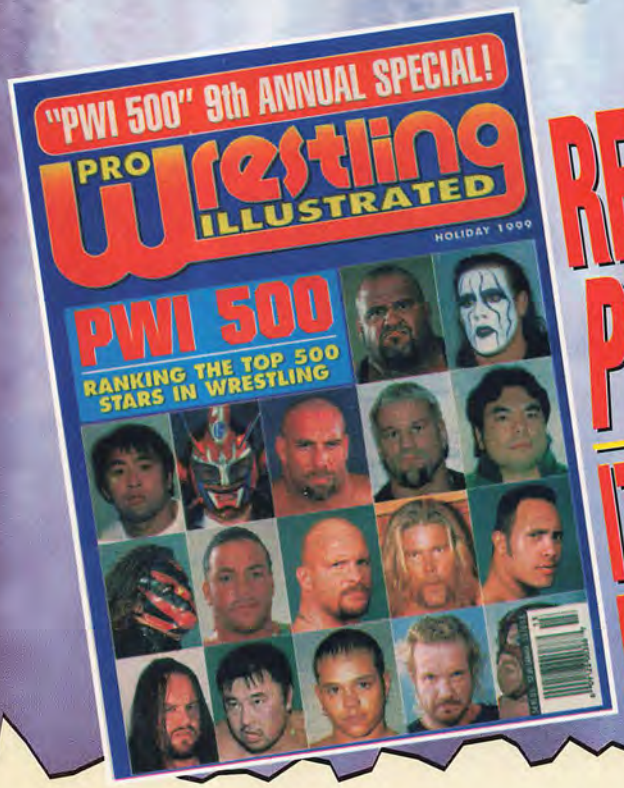
Dave Lenker (Editor-in-Chief): "So many highs and lows to choose from, but I won't soon forget the images of Tammy Lynn Sytch being interviewed in a dressing room on ECW's TNN show. As I watched her tearfully describe the serious personal problems she has had to deal with in recent years, I wondered if this really was the same gorgeous, smart, bubbly young woman I first met in 1993. She came to our editorial offices just weeks after I started with *PWI*, and I had no idea who she was. Within a few years, she was the most famous woman of wrestling. A lot of bad things have happened to her since, but she says she's back. I hope she really can put her problems behind her, even if it means leaving wrestling altogether."

Brandi Mankiewicz (Managing Editor): "October 4, 1999, was just an ordinary night for *Raw*, but not so for Bret Hart on *Nitro*. It was a night of closure. Bret stepped foot into the very arena in which his brother Owen was tragically taken from him. On May 23, there was nothing Bret could do but cry. On October 4, he wrestled Chris Benoit in a spectacular bout between two men who will never stop grieving. The outcome meant nothing; these two men wrestled with their emotions more than each other. As Bret cinched on his sharpshooter—Owen's sharpshooter—for the victory, I hope that for the first time in 4½ months, Bret felt a little closer to his baby brother and a little more comfort."

Frank Krewda (Associate Editor): "ECW's rise to national prominence with the TNN deal will stick out the most in my mind. ECW's impact on the WWF and WCW, though understated, has been irrefutable. Theoretically, ECW is now on par with the Big Two, but in the real world, there is a long way to go before it is regarded as such by the average fan. When and if ECW overtakes WCW and/or the WWF, the journey will be traced back to August 27, 1999."

Will Welsh (Associate Editor): "If there is one thing I will always remember about 1999, it will be Chris Jericho's grandiose debut in the WWF. I, an admitted Jerichoholic, anticipated Jericho's arrival on the shores of Titanland for months, but never did I imagine that his coming would be heralded by a millennium clock. Nor did I think that he would immediately thrust himself into verbal warfare with someone like The Rock—a man whose array of verbal weaponry is second to none. If Jericho can live up to the hype (I think he can), Y2K will be the year for Y2J."

Frank Vitucci (Photo Editor): "Shane McMahon as 1999's Rookie of the Year? If I would have told you that was even possible last year, you would have laughed in my face. Saying that Shane McMahon is our Rookie of the Year does sound weird, though. He showed me exactly what kind of skills he had in his match with X-Pac at WrestleMania. But the one match that stood out among all the others was his match with Test at SummerSlam. Though Shane took a pounding in most of the match, he amazed me with his leap from the top rope onto Test, who was laying on the Spanish announcers' table. After watching that match, I look forward to *any* match that involves Shane McMahon. What's next for Shane, number one in the 2000 *'PWI* 500'?"



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